

St John's CE Primary School

Year 3 Autumn Term Forecast 2024

Welcome back to school and to a brand new year – and welcome to Year 3! I hope you all had a safe and relaxing summer. As we start this new school year, my primary goal is to ensure that all children feel settled, supported, and ready to learn. We will focus on creating a positive and nurturing environment where they can thrive both academically and personally.

Outlined below is an overview of the key skills and topics we'll be covering during the Autumn term.

### **English**

In English this term, lessons will include a weekly focus on punctuation and grammar, supported by modelled sentences from the "Read to Write" program. Our key text will be the narrative "**Stone Age Boy**". Each week, students will engage in four English sessions lasting between 45 to 75 minutes, tailored to their needs. To enhance cross-curricular learning, we will link the English topic of "**Stone Age Boy**" to our history topic on **the Stone Age**, integrating historical content into our reading and writing activities. During these sessions, we'll explore punctuation and grammar through analysis of "Stone Age Boy," examining how the narrative employs various punctuation marks to enhance storytelling as well as their overall literacy and historical understanding.

### **Reading**

In our English curriculum, whole class reading sessions will be based on our core text for writing, which may include texts recommended by Ashley Booth (<https://theteachingbooth.wordpress.com/2020/06/28/a-ks2-reading-curriculum/>) or selections from the library service. For the autumn term, the text for **VIPERS** will be "**Ottoline and the Yellow Cat**" by Chris Riddell. **VIPERS** sessions will occur once a week for 30 to 45 minutes. Additionally, students will participate in our whole school initiative, **DEAR** (Drop Everything And Read), where they will spend two sessions per week, each lasting 15 to 20 minutes, reading a book of their choice. This approach not only supports our focus on reading but also encourages a love for literature and independent reading.

### **Spelling & Grammar**

Spelling plays a critical role in helping children meet the required standards in writing, as weak spelling skills can hinder their progress. To ensure that Year 3 children develop strong spelling habits, we will have three focused 20-minute spelling sessions each

week. Children will be sent home with new words to practice each Wednesday, and on Fridays, they will take a quick test to reinforce what they have learned.

This Autumn term, we will focus on revising key spelling strategies. We will be using the new Essential Letters and Sounds scheme (Term 3) to further support spelling practice, as well as handwriting joins. The children will learn a range of important spelling rules, including the use of apostrophes, dropping the "e" and adding suffixes such as -ing, -ed (pronounced /t/ and /d/), -er, -y, and -est. We will also cover common spellings, including "a" spelled as "ar" and common endings like -tion. Additionally, we will focus on high-frequency words such as "people," "busy," "water," and "oo" spelled as "oul."

## **Maths**

In Maths this term, we will focus on improving the children's confidence and their approach to using different strategies when solving word problems. Children will have many opportunities to reinforce and extend their ability to solve mathematical questions efficiently. We will be covering place value within 1,000, as well as the two operations: addition and subtraction. Please ensure your child completes their Mathematics set work and uses other websites to practise their mental maths skills. They should also make use of TTRockstars to practise their times tables.

## **Science**

In Science this term, we will be studying the topic "Animals Including Humans." Students will learn about the nutritional needs of animals, including humans, and how they require the right types and amounts of food to stay healthy. They will also explore the concept that animals, unlike plants, cannot produce their own food and must obtain their nutrition from what they eat. This unit will help students understand the importance of a balanced diet and how it affects living organisms.

## **Art**

Ms Geldart will be leading the Art sessions. In our Art and Design Technology curriculum this term, we will be focusing on the "Cook Well, Eatwell" unit. Students will develop a variety of skills, including understanding how key events in design and technology have shaped the world. They will learn to develop design criteria, identify major food groups (carbohydrates, protein, dairy, fruits and vegetables, fats and sugars), and recognise where different foods are produced. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to prepare and cook a simple Savory dish, while learning to suggest improvements to their

products and consider feedback from others. Throughout the unit, safety will be emphasised, with all appliance use under adult supervision.

## **PSHE**

This term in PSHE, children will be learning about emotions and feelings, focusing on how to recognise, understand, and manage their emotions in a healthy way. Topics will include mental health and wellbeing, exploring the importance of sleep, exercise, spending time outdoors, and talking about feelings. Children will also learn strategies to stay calm and manage peer influence and pressure, understanding concepts like self-respect, decision-making, and seeking help when needed. Additionally, the class will explore themes related to community, including rules, laws, responsibilities, and rights, as well as the importance of respect and making thoughtful choices at home, school, and in the community. These lessons will help children develop a strong sense of self-awareness and community responsibility.

## **RE**

In RE this autumn term, students will explore the question, "What is the Bible's Big Story?" over the course of 6 to 8 lessons. They will learn about key elements of the Bible, including the Old and New Testaments, and significant themes such as creation, the fall, and salvation. Students will also discuss the roles of God, the People of God, incarnation, the gospel, and the Kingdom of God, helping them understand the overarching narrative of the Bible and its relevance in Christian faith.

## **Music**

In Music this term, we will be focusing on "Charanga – Let Your Spirit Fly" as part of the "Through the Ages" unit. Students will learn key musical vocabulary, including terms such as structure, verse, chorus, improvise, compose, pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, and dynamics. They will explore instruments like bass, drums, guitar, keyboard, and synthesiser while learning about the key elements of a song, such as melody and hooks. By the end of the unit, they will also know how to identify a musical question and answer, enhancing their overall understanding of music.

## **PE**

Games this year will take place on Wednesday afternoons with Ms Brannan. Swimming will take place on Monday. Please ensure that your child arrives in the correct PE kit every Wednesday.

## **Computing**

This autumn term, students will be learning about desktop publishing and developing their drawing skills using digital tools. They will learn how to draw objects, insert text boxes and images, manipulate objects, and create well-organised layouts without unnecessary space, while effectively using colour and fonts. Key vocabulary for this unit includes insert, textbox, images, and layout. Throughout the term, students will have regular access to the school's class set of Chromebooks, which will be used across various subjects to enhance their learning experience.

## **Wider Curriculum**

Our topic for the first term is "Through the Ages," where students will learn about changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They will explore the history of these islands through a coherent, chronological narrative, understanding how people's lives have shaped the nation and how Britain has been influenced by and has influenced the wider world. Students will engage with key historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, and significance, using these to make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends. They will also develop their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses. Key vocabulary includes Stone Age, Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, historian, and archaeologist. In the wider curriculum, students will also explore topics such as "Our Planet, Our World" in Geography, and "Cook Well, Eat Well" in Food Technology.

## **Homework**

Predominantly, homework assignments will be issued using Google Classroom.

Homework will consist of work related to English and Maths that has been covered in class including Mathematics. Spelling and grammar-related homework will go out every Thursday and will be due in on a Wednesday. There will be a weekly spelling test on a Friday. The children will be given tasks to complete related to our Wider Curriculum topic of 'the stone age' - this may involve an element of choice and will sometimes include practical activities such as art/craft. At times children may receive some work related to other subjects. For some tasks the children will be allowed a longer time to complete them but this will be stated on google classroom assignments. Mathematics will be issued on Thursdays.

During the term the children will be expected to practise, learn and begin to use spellings in their writing, where appropriate. In addition to this, they will be expected to practise any personal spellings they have identified themselves.

The children will be expected to read regularly ensuring that they cover a range of genres. They should aim to recognise the different features of each genre, both in terms of language used and layout, so that they can use this knowledge to improve their own writing.

### **Ways to help your children**

Read, read and read again! Let your child read silently to themselves, read to you, to other family members and also please let them see you read whenever possible; this is so valuable as a model for them. Encourage your child to read regularly from a wide variety of books of different genres and authors. This will help develop their comprehension and fluency when reading. Ask the children to focus on how the author writes, their choice of words and language; in doing so this will help improve their writing. It is also important to talk about books with your child to deepen their understanding and promote their comprehension skills.

It would also be helpful if you could support your child in identifying spelling errors they consistently make so that they can practise learning them using methods from their toolkits they will learn with us in school.

Practise mental maths wherever possible: when shopping, when cooking/baking, walking to school etc! If your child is still working on mastering their times tables, please encourage them to use TTrackstars regularly to practise, as this will help improve their mental maths skills.

Thank you all in advance for your support. We are excited about the term ahead and hope you are too. We are looking forward to getting to know your children and supporting them in all areas over the coming year. Please do not hesitate to contact us for anything, however small.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Alajee