Bledlow Ridge School

Distribution Year 3 Parents   11th January 2016

Dear Parents,

I hope you've had a peaceful break and would like to wish you all, a very happy new year. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your kind wishes, cards and gifts? I was overwhelmed by your generosity and am very grateful. Thank You. Here is an overview of the topics that will be covered this term:

English
The children will read, and study the key features of Greek myths and fables before writing their own from a key character's perspective. They will also look at non-fiction texts, building on skills of recount and report writing learned in Year 2 - the children will learn note-taking techniques and use a spidergram to organise information. Later, we will study the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson and create descriptive sentences based on poems read; the children will be expected to learn and recite a poem to the class. Grammar, punctuation and spelling activities occur daily and the children continue to have regular handwriting practice. Weekly reading comprehension tasks and group reading sessions create opportunities to assess and work on understanding and oracy. Please continue to listen to your children read, even if they are independent readers. Reading aloud is still a vital part of the reading process and is recommended for children well into their teenage years.

Maths
The children will continue to work on their knowledge of the four operations and use and apply their knowledge to help them solve everyday problems. This term a big emphasis will be placed on times tables – the children need to know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5, 10, **3**, **4** and **8** times tables by heart before they move to Year 4. We will revisit fractions before moving onto statistics, in the form of data represented as bar charts, pictograms and tables.

Other curriculum areas
In Science, the children will be investigating light and shadows.

As part of their Computing studies Year 3 will be given the opportunity to film their own sports coaching video. They will be exploring camera techniques and storyboarding and writing their own scripts. After this they will film each scene and then use editing software to put their video together. After half term they will explore how we use technology and the internet to communicate and how this can be done safely.

In Humanities we are approaching the end of our Ancient Greeks unit and looking forward to our visit to the Ashmolean museum next week, when we will have the opportunity to study artefacts at close range. The visit will also launch our next focus of study: Roman Britain.

Year 3 will continue to work through a series of short topics in French, to build confidence in using single words and short phrases in different contexts. In Design and Technology the children will be exploring levers and linkages and developing technical skills in order to make mini catapults. Class 3 has P.E on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Kit should include proper trainers, socks, shorts above the knee (for gym) and a warm tracksuit (for outdoor games). When the weather is very cold, gloves and a woolly hat may also be worn. It is school policy that long hair is tied up and no jewellery is worn for Games or P.E. Earrings must be removed if possible or tape supplied from home to cover them. We will be covering a mixture of outdoor games, fitness, gym and dance. In games we will be continuing to develop our hockey skills, looking at dribbling, passing, shooting and how they can apply these skills into a match situation. The children will also continue to do gymnastics with Mr. Watts on a Wednesday morning.

Home Learning
Spellings and sentence work will continue to be set each Tuesday. Maths home learning (which includes times tables) will also be given out weekly, on a Friday. This half term the children will be set a mini project on the Ancient Greeks – details will be sent out separately - therefore there will be no learning log tasks set.
Please do make contact if you need further clarification or have any matters you would like to discuss.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Rankin