

**Class 3 Newsletter**

**Term 1 2016**

WELCOME TO CLASS THREE!

This is our first Class 3 newsletter of the year and so we would like to wish all of our children, parents and carers a very warm welcome back after the Summer holidays. We hope you all had a lovely break. This year is going to be a very exciting year, with brand new topics, along with the different learning opportunities and experiences that they will bring. We’re sure the children will tell you all about it!

What we are learning

Our topic this term is ‘Sensational Safari’. We will be learning about the geography of Kenya through focusing on the main human and physical features of the country. We will also learn about the key geographical features of the country including Kenyan wildlife, landscapes and culture. While exploring the similarities and differences between Kenya and the UK, the children will continue to develop their geographical skills through a variety of fun and interactive activities.

The Africa and Safari theme will continue through Literacy, beginning with the story ‘Fatou, Fetch the Water’ by Neil Griffiths, which the children will learn to retell by heart. They will then have a chance to write their own story based on the pattern and setting of the story they have learnt.

We shall also be looking at traditional African poetry and creating our own non-chronological reports about the animals that live in Africa.

In Art we will be having lots of fun looking at the patterns, shapes and colours of Africa in order to create our own patterns, jewellery and artefacts.

Our unit in Science is ‘All Living Things’. This will involve investigating and sorting living and non-living objects, while identifying the features of each group.

In RE we shall be asking the question ‘Where do we belong?’ where we will be thinking about our families, the community and those people that are special to us. The children will have the opportunity to think about Jesus’ family and how religious groups have things that are special about them.

Dates for this term

30th

Useful Information

**PE**

In Class 3 our regular PE days will be every Tuesday and Thursday. However, this term we are fortunate enough to have a basketball coach to teach the children on Wednesday mornings. The children will need their daps or trainers for this as we will be outside. This term Tuesday PE sessions will see the children doing Yoga, while they will be practising gymnastics on a Thursday.

Please can we also remind you to make sure that your children have their (named) PE kit in school at all times, as there may be other opportunities for children to do physical activities throughout the week. The PE kit should include a white t-shirt, black shorts and daps for outdoor activities. The children may also wear a tracksuit for outdoor PE in the colder months.

**Homework**

This week we will be sending out homework. Please encourage your child to complete their homework each week, as it consolidates the work we have done in school and supports their learning. This year we will be introducing spellings and times table for the children to learn. Homework will be sent home on a Wednesday, with the expectation that it is completed and returned to school the following Tuesday.

…and finally

It is very encouraging to see many parents saying goodbye to their children at the gate and allowing them to come in independently. The children benefit greatly from this and it means that they can settle much more quickly and quietly and become more independent.

As ever, if you have any worries or questions relating to your child please do not hesitate to catch us after school when you collect your child. It is important for us all that your children are happy at school, so please keep us informed of any concerns, no matter how small. May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to meeting you all at our forthcoming Parents Evening, if not before.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Adamson, Mrs Martin, Mrs Seviour and Miss Buchan

Free School Meals

Please remember that ***all*** of our children in Year 2 are still entitled to a free school meal everyday as part of the government scheme. They are still as delicious as ever and well worth a try!

Please note that this has not replaced the free school meal scheme for families who receive particular state benefits and your child may be able entitled to extra benefits through this particular scheme. Please ask in the office for more details.

Water Bottles and Snacks

It is very important that the children have fresh water each day and whilst we have a water fountain in the cloakroom, it is much more convenient to have a water bottle to hand in the classroom. Please can you ensure your child has one in school, with their name on, which they will need to take home each evening to wash and refill.

Each day the children in Year 2 will continue to have a piece of fruit for their snack, as part of the government’s School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Unfortunately this is not available to our Year 3 children as they are now in Key Stage 2. They are, however, very welcome to bring in their own fruit or vegetables for snack time.

Reading

This year reading books will be changed by us once a week, focusing on one group per day. However, we understand that the children will probably need to change their books in between and so will allow them to do this independently at an appropriate time. They may need a reminder from you at the beginning of the day, if they are likely to forget!

Please also remember to sign your child’s reading record, just to let us know that they have read their book. We will be continuing the reading reward system, as we did in Class 2 so that children are recognised for their efforts in reading at home.

As in Class 2, reading is carried out through Guided Group Reading sessions. However, we will endeavour to make sure that children are listen to individually as often as possible and as appropriate to each child’s needs.