



Secrets of the Past

Year 3 - Term 5

April 2018



Our topic this term sends us back in time, learning about "Secrets of the Past". We will learn about the huge changes to human life during the Stone Age, into the Bronze Age and then the Iron Age, leading up to the Roman invasion in 43AD. We will spend the first day back setting the scene, distinguishing between the Palaeolithic (Old Stone) Age, the Mesolithic (Middle Stone) Age and the Neolithic (New Stone) Age. We will look at images of cave paintings dating back to the Mesolithic Age as these provide evidence of how humans lived during this period. We'll make our own paints from natural ingredients and create our own paintings.

As part of this topic, we will be learning about the discovery of the Neolithic settlement Skara Brae and pondering the secrets of Stonehenge. Our English will be linked to our topic: building on our research skills through non-chronological reports, writing a first person account of a child living in Skara Brae and writing sensory narrative based on the lovely book, "the First Dog" by Jan Brett. There is so much for us to learn about during this vast period of change: the creation of the earliest works of art 30,000 years ago; the development of farming; the varied prehistoric diet; and how early people made fire. We are really looking forward to uncovering Secrets of the Past with Year 3 this term.

Supporting your child at home

As we move towards the end of Year 3, your support at home continues to be really important and will help with your child's confident transition into Year 4. There are three areas where we need your particular help:

- Fluency in mental maths and good recall of number facts, such as multiplication tables and number bonds, underpin confident number work and will give your child dexterity with number. **Theoretically, your child should have rapid recall (including division facts) of 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x and 8 x tables by the end of Year 3.**
- **Please keep reading with your child at home!** Research has shown that when children read extensively they become better writers. Reading a variety of genres helps children learn text structures and language that they can then transfer to their own writing. In addition, reading provides children with prior knowledge that they can use in their stories. Even if your child reads independently, it is important to listen to them read regularly to ensure they understand what they're reading.
- **Please keep practising spellings and help your child remember that their spelling booklet needs to be in school every week** even if they are not ready for testing. This is in order for their teacher to be able to monitor practice being done and progress made.

This term we will be rewarding the children with beads when they display **ELLI learning skills**. You may wonder what we mean by ELLI. As a school we aim to nurture life-long learners and so we encourage the children to use strategies in the classroom which will develop their learning 'power'. The children know what we are looking for: creativity, curiosity, reflection, making connections, learnability, resilience, independence and good relationships.



Dates for the Diary:

3SGCS starts swimming! Thurs 19th April

(Note: 3LM will swim in Term 6)

May Fayre: 7th May

Trip to Stonehenge: 15th May (details to follow)

Thank you for your continued help and support.
The Year 3 team

