

Enchanted Forest



Year 3 Term 1 September 2019

Welcome to Year 3! Our topic for this term - Enchanted Forest - has a predominantly science and geography focus. In science, we will be building on and developing what your child learnt in Year 2 about plants with a particular focus on the role of flowers in the life cycle of flowering plants including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. In geography, we will be learning about the eight compass points and using OS map symbols and keys when reading and making maps. In art, we will be exploring colour mixing in the context of woodlands and nature.

We are very excited to get to know your children and look forward to helping them settle into Year 3. This term's activities have been planned so the transition from Year 2 is as smooth as possible. Please remember that we are here to support you and your children, and we are always happy to chat about any concerns or ideas you may have. We can be contacted via email (via the office) and are always happy to meet and discuss any queries or concerns after school with you.

The school week

The children will be engaged in short early morning activities every day from 8.40 am, as soon as the school opens. These activities are an important part of the school day, so please make sure your child comes into school promptly. In order to encourage independence, we would be grateful if you would let your child come into the building on their own in the morning. However, you are most welcome to visit the classroom at the end of the day if you would like to talk to us or to look at your child's learning. Please note that the end of the school day for KS2 is at 3.20pm.

For the first term, PE sessions will take place on Friday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Your child will need a T-shirt, shorts, trainers and a sweatshirt for outdoor PE, and jogging trousers will also be necessary in winter. From the week commencing 9th September, your child needs to come into school wearing his or her PE kit on a Thursday morning. Long hair will need to be tied back and earrings taped or removed for these sessions.

Dates for your diary:

Y3 Maths and English evening: Thurs 19th September
Parent Consultations: 8th & 10th October
Individual photos: 11th October
INSET Days: 22/23/24 October

How you can help your child at home:

It is incredibly beneficial that you support your child's learning at home. Reading, spellings and times tables are the mainstays of Year 3's homework. Reading, times tables and spelling progress will be logged in your child's Learning Log. Please ensure this comes in to school every day.

From time to time, there may be a pre-learning homework for a future lesson - usually reading through some information or (towards the end of the year) some research. Children will have a week to complete this flipped classroom homework. The day it is given out will depend on when it's needed. It won't necessarily be every week.

Times tables: Rapid recall of times tables will give your child greater confidence with number work and underpins basic numeracy skills. We aim to test your child weekly but we do rely on parent support to do this. Your child will be told after each test which table they are working on and so it helps us if you check with your child every week as to how they have got on in their test.

Spellings: The spelling system will start with the common exception words. When your child is confident with these, he/she will pick up from the country booklet your child reached at the end of Year 2. We will advise you which is our spelling test day once we have heard from any would-be parent helpers! (See plea below!)

Reading: We would like you to read regularly with your child - ideally three times a week. Please record page numbers and make a comment in the Learning Log. Please make sure you are talking about the text and asking questions too so that you can check your child's understanding of the text.

REMEMBER: a few minutes each day helping your child with reading, spelling and times tables will make a real difference to his/her progress.

PLEASE NOTE: We are aiming to issue learning logs, reading books, times tables and spellings over the next three weeks once we have settled the children in and got all our systems in place.

We need your help!

Although we listen to every child read in Guided Reading each week, this tends to be focussed reading on a specific text chosen by us. To ensure that children are making the right choices in their independent reading, they would really benefit if an adult could read with them on another occasion in school. We also need support with testing of both times tables and spellings. Afternoons would be preferable, if possible. Thank you to those that have already volunteered!

We are really looking forward to an exciting and rewarding term working with you and your child.

The Year 3 Team

Don't forget that break time snacks should be only fruit or vegetables.

