

Enchanted Forest

Year 3 Term 1 September 2021

Welcome to Year 3! Our topic for this term - Enchanted Forest - has a predominantly science and writing 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. We will be looking at different styles of poetry, writing letters and creating settings for our narrative. In art, we will be exploring colour mixing in the context of woodlands and nature. Later on in the term we will be using different grades of pencils for observational drawings of seeds and flowers. In PE, we will be concentrating on gymnastics skills and learning the fundamentals of football. In Guided Reading, we will be exploring fiction texts through the work of Roald Dahl, concentrating particularly on his book, the Minpins. RE lessons will centre around The Creation Story. E-safety will be the main drive for our Computing lessons, and will include research skills.

Developing Independence

At the heart of our school's philosophy are the ELLI dimensions, and the one dimension that comes to the fore in Year 3 is independence. The children are encouraged not only to do things for themselves, but also to take responsibility. All too often we hear "My Mum didn't put my homework in my bag.!" As the year progresses, the children begin to realise that it's their homework so they need to put it in that bag! It helps enormously if this push for independence is reflected at home too, if possible. Easier said than done sometimes, when you're trying to get everyone out of the door on a cold, winter morning, but if you could encourage that independence at home when possible, it will reaffirm what we're trying to do at school.

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. The end of the day for Year 3 children is 3.15 pm.

For the first term, PE sessions will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. Your child will need to come into school in their PE kit on those days: T-shirt, shorts, trainers and a sweatshirt for outdoor PE, and sports trousers in winter. Long hair will need to be tied back and earrings taped or removed for these sessions.

Introducing... the Book Bear and the Maths Monkey!

These are sent home weekly to anyone wishing to either review a book or complete some sort of maths related activity such as cooking, measuring heights or keeping a diary of events and times during a day. The idea is to engage the children in making connections between learning at home and at school. All children who take home the maths monkey or book bear will be given the opportunity to share what they have learnt with the rest of the class.

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.

Times tables: Rapid recall of times tables will give your child greater confidence with number work and underpins basic numeracy skills. We will revisit Year 2 targets but will also concentrate, through the year, on 2x, 4x and 8x tables. TT Rock Stars is great to develop your child's rapid recall of tables and each child will be provided with login details.

Spellings: The children will continue to follow the Spelling Shed scheme. Spellings will be sent home on a Tuesday and children can practise weekly spelling rules online using their login. They will be tested at school on a Monday.

Reading: We would recommend that you read regularly with your child - ideally three times a week. Please record page numbers and make a comment in the Reading 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. Reading Logs and reading books need to come in to school daily.

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 reading 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.

Meet the team!

Mrs Steggall will teach on Mondays and Tuesdays in 3CSLM. Mrs Matthews will teach that class for the rest of the week. Mr Birleson is the teacher of 3MB. The two Learning Support Assistants are Mrs Kielb and Mrs Little.

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. Please feel free to e-mail us admin@christchurch.wilts.sch.uk or we are always happy to meet and discuss any queries or concerns after school with you.

Dates for your diary:

Y3 Welcome Evening: Tues 7th September
Parent Consultations: 12th & 14th October
Individual photos: 8th October

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

