

Year 3 Spring Term 1 & 2 2018

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Key dates for the diary

- Friday 12th January Greek Immersion Day – (Dress up as a Mythical Creature/Ancient Greek)
- Monday 15th January Athletics Workshops (9:30 and 4:00)
- Thursday 11th January Phonics Workshop (Phase 2-6 at 9:30)
- Wednesday 7th February 3P Class assembly
- **Half term: 12th February – 16th February**
- Thursday 1st March – World book day (Don't forget to have your Book Week related costumes ready for the Thursday)
- Friday 23rd March – Parent Conference Day (no school for children)
- Monday 26th March – Thursday 29th March Intensive swimming course at Alleyn's
- **Last day of term – March 29th (2pm finish)**

Rather excitingly, this term we are launching a new growth mind-set initiative at Heber Primary School. With a growth mind-set, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication, hard work and a positive attitude to challenge. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishments. At Heber we wish for all our children to have a growth mind-set. We have already started to explore the power of 'Yet'. Rather than a child saying "I can't do this," they'll be encouraged to say "I can't do this, yet", giving them the mind-set that with hard work and extra effort, achievement will follow.

English

We will be working on a range of genres including: poetry, stories with familiar settings and instructions. We are also working on the following:

Greek Myths

They will compare a range of myths and identify the text structure and language features. The children will create a story map and use oral storytelling to support the planning of their myth. We will also look at the Firebird by Saviour Pirotta, which is similar to a quest myth.

Traditional Tales

We will be reading Firebird by Saviour Pirotta to understand the features and patterns of the traditional story genre. We will explore the characters through discussion and drawing activities and make connections with other books and stories they know. We will explore the story through drama to help them develop empathy with characters so as to be able to write in role.

We will also be studying the text Jonathan Swift's Gulliver retold by Martin Jenkins. The children will be writing newspaper articles, and writing in role.

Drama

We will be acting out stories using role play and hot seating. This is a great opportunity for children to practise their inference skills by learning how to empathise with the characters. We will be writing and performing play scripts based on the stories we study in class.

Maths

In Maths this term we will be working on Multiplication and division, money, statistics, measurements and fractions.

Multiplication and Division: Pupils solve multiplication and division problems in different contexts, including missing number problems. The school calculation policy can be accessed on the school website.

Money: Pupils will solve money problems involving addition and subtraction. Pupils will add and subtract amounts of money to give change, using the symbols for pounds and pence in a practical context.

Statistics: Pupils will interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables. Building on learning from the previous chapter, they extend their knowledge of graphs by working with basic bar charts and solving one- and two-step questions, such as "How many more...?" and "How many fewer...?".

Measurements: Pupils will add and subtract lengths and measure the perimeter of simple 2D shapes. They will continue to measure and compare lengths. They now use millimetres (mm), as well as centimetres and metres, in real-life contexts and discuss the connection between them. This reinforces work on place value.

Fractions: Pupils will recognise and use unit fractions and non-unit fractions with small denominators as numbers. They also compare and order unit fractions and fractions with the same denominators.

*Please encourage your child to visit **Mathletics** and **Timestables Rockstars** regularly. We would love for year three to be top of the league!*

Spring Term Topic: A Glimpse of Greece

Topic (History/ Art/ Computing and PE)

Our learning theme 'A Glimpse of Greece' is a cross curricular unit. The children will focus on History, Geography and Art as these subjects relate to Ancient Greece. In Geography, the children will be learning about the extent of the influence of Ancient Greece and how it can still be felt in modern nations, for example in our modern Olympic Games. The children will improve their knowledge of countries within Europe. In History lessons, the children will learn about the various nation states of Ancient Greece and what life was like for different members of society. Having focussed on Geography as part of our topic in the autumn we will spend more time on History this term.

The children will have a **Greek Immersion day on Friday 12th January**, where they come to school dressed as an Ancient Greek or a mythological creature. The children will be making and decorating their own Greek vases, making and tasting Greek food and finally watching a Greek themed movie. Starting this term, we are changing the way that Computing is taught. We will take a topic based approach to teach the three aspects of the subject in fun and exciting new ways. In Spring 1, the children will create an animated cartoon focusing on characters from Greek Mythology. They will use a paint tool to create their characters and backgrounds. They then create an animation by translating a storyboard into a series of scripted programs using Scratch. In Spring 2, the children will make a short narrated video of a Greek Myth.

Science Forces

We will have a lot of fun investigating magnets and observing how they attract and repel each other. During this topic we will conduct a variety of experiments around forces including friction and air resistance.

Science Light and Shadow

We will be continuing to learn about light and shadow, and carry out investigations about the length and size of shadows.

French:

In French this term, we will continue to use a variety of methods, including singing songs and interactive games, to learn the days of the week, the months of the year, colours and the parts of our bodies.

D.T

Relating to our Light and Shadow science topic, the children will be designing and making a protective device from the sun.

During Immersion Day, the children will be learning how to prepare and make a Greek Feast, as part of the food technology requirements of the curriculum.

R.E

Children will be introduced to the Fundamental teachings of Judaism. They will find out about the core beliefs, religious symbols and festivals. If you follow this religion and would like to come in to share the teachings of your faith with the children please inform your class teacher.

P.E

Indoor P.E.(Dance and Gymnastics)

Dance - In our dance lessons the children will explore the theme of Ancient Greeks through improvisation. They will practice and develop different ways of moving using actions and dynamics and will work in pairs and small groups to create routines, rehearse and improve on performance skills.

Gymnastic - In gymnastics, we will be learning to travel and to balance using different body parts. The children will learn how to lift various body parts whilst travelling. The children will use the large apparatus to travel upon and to create balances.

Outdoor PE (Games and Athletics)

Games - In our Games Lessons, children will be learning how to play netball. They will be developing the skills of running, jumping, throwing and catching both in isolation and in combination, and playing competitive games, where they will learn to apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending.

Athletics - Our Athletic lessons this term will tie into our topic, A Glimpse of Greece. Children will learn how to do Olympic sports such as javelin throwing, discus and running. These activities will help develop their flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance.

PSHE

We will start the term with the topic 'Going for Goals'. This theme focuses on the key aspect of motivation and the need for self-awareness. It gives an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. The theme provides opportunities for the children to reflect on themselves as individuals, particularly their strengths as learners and how they learn most effectively.

Music

In Year 3, we will be using the song 'Three Little Birds' among others in our learning. We will examine together the instrumentation, feel and rhythm of our chosen song. We will also look at similar songs and what features are represented. We will also be learning how to represent, read and compose rhythms and melodies in different ways.

Art

Mythological Creatures:

We will study and record these creatures and investigate symbols used in Star Signs to create one creature from the elements of three. We will collect and comment on professional illustrator's responses to these Star Signs.

Greek Vases:

We will understand and recognise the various period styles of Ancient Greek vases and develop drawing skills to decorate a vase design.

General Routine Reminders

PE Days:

- 3L- will have outdoor PE every Wednesday and indoor PE every Monday.
- 3P - will have outdoor PE every Monday pm and indoor P.E. every Wednesday.

Reading Books and Records:

- Reading books need to be brought to school every day. The reading record book should be filled regularly by the parent/carer or the child. They will be monitored weekly.

Home Learning:

- Spelling lists will go home weekly. Children will be tested on those words the following week. Help your child with their weekly spelling list. The transfer of these skills is very important. Spellodrome is an online resource that can be accessed using the same password as Mathletics.
- Mathletics and TT Rockstars should be used at least once a week. Year 3 children should be choosing topics on Mathletics that link to the Maths covered in class that week.
- Reading every day is expected.
- Help your children to learn the times tables and related division facts for each times table 3, 4 and 8.
- Support your child in learning how to tell the time on analogue and digital clocks to the nearest minute.
- If children find interesting facts relating to our topic, please encourage them to bring them in to share.

If you have any concerns that you need to discuss please contact the office to make an appointment with your child's class teacher.

We are happy for you to take Maths and English books home to look at over the weekend; however, we will require them on Monday morning.

Thank you in advance for your help and support this academic year.

We both look forward to continuing to make this year as successful as possible for both you, and your child.

Many thanks,
The Year 3 Team