

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a relaxing summer break and took advantage of the quality family time that you had together. It was a shame the sun wasn't shining for us! I am so excited to be staying in Y3 and teaching this class for the first time as their KS2 journey begins! This year I am joined in class by my teaching assistant, Ms Turner, who will be supporting Y3 and helping the children with their transition to 'the juniors'. We welcome back Mrs King from her maternity leave; she will teach the class every Friday for PPA and my Assistant Headteacher leadership cover.

Our exciting curriculum theme for this Autumn term is 'People on the Move!'. This theme will focus on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We aim to bring this theme alive for the children by creating some stimulating 'hands on' experiences for them. We will have 'Anglo Saxon' and 'Viking' themed days in school where the children will be able to wear costumes (additional homework letter to follow) and take part in some cookery, feasting and much more. So much to look forward to!

Children should come to school in full uniform (including black leather/leather effect shoes) every day and bring their PE kit to school each week where they can get changed when they have a PE lesson/sporting club. PE kits are to be left in school during the week, so that they can change for PE lessons. PE Kit consists of navy blue shorts, white t-shirt & black plimsoles or trainers. Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirts may be worn outside when the weather is cold but must be in St Andrew's colours.

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings (PE kit, coat, uniform, bookbag, water bottle etc) have clear name labels – this makes it much easier to get them back to you if they are misplaced.

To ensure a smooth transition from KS1 to KS2, I have liaised with Mrs Boyle to try to keep many routines that the children have been used to previously.

Routines:

- Homework will be given on a **Friday** and should be returned the following **Wednesday**. Spellings and number bonds or times tables will be ongoing homework activities every week. Each week, the spellings will follow a particular rule set by the Government in the National Curriculum; as you know, some words are challenging! **10 spellings, based on the Spelling Shed scheme, will be set on a Friday & tested on the following Wednesday (www.spellingshed.com/en-gb).** Spellings will be in their homework books and activities assigned on Spelling Shed will supplement this and

support the children with learning their new spellings. Using Spelling Shed is a fantastic way to learn spellings!

- PE will take place every **Tuesday (Mr Pope)** and **Friday (Mrs King)**.

- Please make sure that your child has a water bottle in school – the classrooms get very warm both in the summer and winter and active brains need plenty of hydration!

- Children should read every evening for at least 20 minutes. Even though your child is becoming increasingly confident as a reader, it is still important that you share books together and talk about features of the text. Children who regularly read at home generally make excellent progress in school. We will hear children read during guided reading each week or on a 1:1 basis with a teacher, TA or volunteer. Books will be changed three times each week but we will endeavour to change them as often as possible. There will be a box just outside the classroom door and books can be left in their to change or alternatively they can be given to Ms Turner.

- As part of their weekly homework, we expect children to be practising the relevant number bonds, times tables or division facts at home. We will continue from where the children were in Y2 and each week their test will be placed in their homework folder so you can see if they have moved on. Times tables / division and number bond facts are tested on **Wednesday**. All children will complete the Key 21 multiplication and division facts weekly, with the aim of either improving their score each week, or speeding up the time taken to complete the test. This is important as by the end of Y3, children are expected to be confident with their times tables.

- Short arithmetic or reasoning tests will take place each Wednesday; we will put them into homework folders so that you can see how well your child has done and look at any misconceptions with them.

- **The Y3 Class Assembly is on Wednesday 8th November at 9.10am in the school hall.**

The term has started extremely well. We have had great attendance so far. Everyone is smartly dressed, keen to work hard and well behaved in class. The children are becoming familiar with my expectations, I am endeavoring to raise the bar in KS2 and I'm pleased to say that they have all risen to the challenge. I am very proud of them!

If you have any concerns about your child's progress or well-being, then please come and see me. I am usually around before or after school, or you can call to make an appointment.

Many thanks,

Mr Pope, Ms Turner & Mrs King

The Y3 Team

