

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. The sun was shining brightly for most of the holidays too! 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 assistants, Mrs Haywood & Mrs Friend, who will be supporting Y3 and helping the children with their transition to 'the juniors'. Mrs Line will teach the class every Tuesday for my PPA and Assistant Headteacher leadership cover.

Our exciting curriculum theme for this Autumn term is 'Back to the Stone Age!'. We aim to bring this theme alive for the children by creating some stimulating 'hands on' experiences for them. They will learn how life was back in the Stone Age through the use of role play/drama, story-telling, art, research and dance. The children will also use their DT skills to create various tools, weapons and jewellery. We will have Stone Age themed days in school where the children will be able to wear costumes and take part in some Stone Age cookery. So much to look forward to!

Children should come to school in full, smart 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. 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 Miss Field to try to keep many routines that the children have been used to previously. Routines:

- Core homework tasks include reading, spellings and times tables (Please see separate letter from Miss Lewis). These 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 each week & tested on the following Wednesday (<https://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!
- As part of their weekly core homework, we expect children to be practising their times tables or division facts at home. We will use information from their previous class and assess which times tables the children know when they enter Y3. KS2 use Challenge 21 Facts times tables (example in homework books) and TTROCKSTARS is available for children to use to support the learning of their times tables. **Times tables are tested on a Wednesday.** Times tables are crucial to

learning and by the end of Y3, children are expected to be confident with all times tables up to and including the 8 times tables.

- Short arithmetic tests will take place each Wednesday; we will put them into homework folders so that you can see how well your child has done.
- 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.
- PE will take place every **Wednesday** (Mr Pope) and **Friday** (SDCC Specialist Coaching).
- 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!
- The Y3 Class Assembly is on **Friday 6th November** at 9.05am in the school hall.
- Meet the Teacher Meeting: **Monday 14th September** at 3.15pm in the Y3 classroom.

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 endeavouring to raise the bar now they are 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, Mrs Line, Mrs Haywood & Mrs Friend
The Y3 Team