

21st September 2017

Dear children and parents,

Welcome to Year 3! We hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and are now ready to get back into the school routine. This year we are going to be working with lots of fantastic people, so you are going to have a lot of names to learn! As well as having two teachers, we also have two teaching assistants in Year 3: Mrs. Roper and Ms. Smith. Music lessons will continue with Mrs. Ayles but this term our class will also be starting a 10-week musicianship programme delivered by Dorset Music Service. As part of this an expert musician will be coming in to school to teach the children how to play the ukulele. As your child is now in Key Stage 2, they will also be starting Spanish lessons, taught by Susana De La Fuente. Finally Deacon Geoffrey will be joining us once a week to assist with our Religious Education.

Our topic for the first term is Roman Britain and our class text will be *Across the Roman Wall* by Theresa Breslin. Our homework is based on this topic and is intended to give parents the chance to get involved in their child's learning. We have suggested 12 activities based on different skills and we would like the children to pick a different task to complete each week of this half term. That means that they will only have to do half of the activities listed, so choose carefully! They may wish to choose activities that suit their strengths and interests, or they might like to try something that is a bit new for them. Alternatively your child may have an idea for a completely different activity relating to Roman Britain that they would like to have a go at, in which case let us know what you are thinking and we will be happy to help in any way that we can. We want your child's homework to be enjoyable and achievable.

In addition to the set homework, it is extremely important that your child continues to read daily with an adult. In Year 3 we will be looking to see that your child fully understands the books they are reading, so we encourage you to ask each other questions about each text. We would like you to be thinking about questions such as:

- *What might happen next in the story?*
- *How are the characters feeling at certain points in the book and why might that be?*
- *Why has the author chosen to use certain words or phrases? What effects are they trying to create?*

It is far better to have 5 minutes of high quality reading time every day than 30 minutes of poor quality. We know how busy family life is, but reading is one of the most important skills we can gain in life, and it is key to being a successful learner. Try to find somewhere

free from distractions where you can settle down and really enjoy your reading time together. We do ask parents to sign the reading record every time that you have read, and to make any comments that might be helpful to us in school. This will enable us to follow on from where you have left off at home and to make sure that we are dealing with any difficulties you may have had with the book.

It is also very important that your child practises their spellings at home as often as they can, preferably every day. We aim to test the children on their spellings each Tuesday, but as each child is given individual spelling tests in Year 3 this may not always be possible and your child's test may not happen until later in the week. This is why it is very important that your child is learning their spellings regularly at home rather than leaving it until the night before the test. Once your child's test has been marked, we will provide them with a new set of spellings to learn for the next week. Any spellings that they did not spell correctly will be given back to them to have another go at.

As the term progresses and the children settle into the new routine, we will start up a similar system with times tables. In the meantime please do practise whichever set of tables you feel is most appropriate for your child. The National Curriculum states that children should know all their tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4, so you have plenty to choose from!

This term we will be sending out a Parents in Partnership letter via Parent Mail at the end of every week. The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed about the work that we have been doing in class and to give you the chance to respond if there is anything you feel we should know. We know that children are not always forthcoming about what they have been up to and hopefully this will help to keep you in the loop and make it easier for you to support your child in their learning.

PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term and it is essential that your child has their PE kit in school on these days. We recommend leaving it in school whenever possible to avoid having to miss out. Dates for class liturgies and other school events should be published soon so please keep your eyes out for letters, parent mails and any updates on the website. If anybody has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to a very successful year together!

Mrs. Tonkin Mrs. Gardiner