



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays. I hope that you all had a relaxing break with your families. On behalf of Miss Barber and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' for all of the lovely cards and gifts that we received. We really appreciate your generosity. The children have settled back into school life very quickly and are keen to get started on their new topics.

This term, Year 3's topic will focus on the physical geography of Eastern Europe. The children will learn about the different biomes across Eastern Europe and learn about the types of animals and plants that inhabit the land. Later in the term, the children will have a historical focus as they will be learning all about the Romans. An outline of the areas we will be covering can be found on the topic plan attached.

The children will continue to have homework set every Friday and this will continue to be set using Word Shark, Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars. Please check the Purple Mash blog for weekly homework instructions. Children should also be reading every day and should record a comment in their Reading Record at least two times per week. The key focus for reading is on speed and expression, which will aid comprehension. Our times table focus this term is on the 3, 4, and 8s so please practise these with your children whenever you can.

P.E lessons will be on Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure your child brings in their P.E kit on a Monday in preparation for the lessons that week, and takes it home on a Friday to be washed over the weekend. Please make sure that P.E kits and school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Year 3 will continue to have Philosophy lessons on Thursdays. These sessions focus on developing speaking, listening and thinking skills. Please do ask your children about what they have discussed in the sessions and continue these conversations at home.

I am very grateful that the return to school has been so positive and I look forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or directly at dmayers@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher

St William of York

English

Our first text this term is the exciting *Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells, which is set in Russia. We will also spend a few weeks reading the Russian legend of *The Firebird* by Jan Pirota. The children will practise their sentence work, developing sentences which begin with adverbial phrases and subordinate clauses. They will write for a range of purposes using different text types. There will be opportunities for art, drama, discussion and debate to stimulate writing. The children will continue to explore and learn spelling patterns each week, often building on their phonics knowledge from Key Stage One. Children will be encouraged to read from a range of genres when choosing their own reading books and will read daily during Guided Reading sessions to develop fluency and comprehension strategies.

Maths

The children will continue to develop their Maths Mastery to increase number fluency. We will have a particular focus on written methods for multiplication and division, specifically multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. Children will continue to use the inverse operation to check their answers. The children will also focus on length, perimeter, money and statistics. We will read and compare measurements. The last few weeks of the term will be spent consolidating fraction learning from Year 2 so that the children are ready for the Year 3 fraction targets in the Summer term. The children will also have opportunities to solve word problems and apply their developing knowledge in different situations. We will continue to develop fluency recalling the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

Geography/History

We will compare what we know about the UK with Eastern Europe, learning about the physical features of Russia as the largest country in the world. This will include its mountains, rivers, coastlines and biomes.

After the half-term break we will travel back in time to the first century to find out about the Roman invasion of Britain. We will consider how life changed for the Celts, Boudicca's rebellion, the eventual spread of Christianity and the legacy of the

R.E

We will focus on the theme of listening and sharing this term. The children will explore the importance of sharing worship during Mass and the value of the parish community. We will look at the order of Mass and the significance of each part of the service.

P.E.

Year 3 will be participating in both Indoor and Outdoor PE lessons this term. These will be on Tuesdays and Fridays.

During Indoor PE lessons, the children will be learning about the importance of communication, teamwork and special awareness in volleyball and netball. For Outdoor PE, our focus will be on developing passing and dribbling skills in mini games of basketball and football.

Year Group: Year 3

Teacher: Daniel Mayers

Topic: From Russia to Rome

Term: Spring Term



Science

The children will learn that soils are made from rocks and organic matter. They will plan a soil experiment and record their findings using scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables.

After half term, the children will learn everything they need to know about light, recognising that they need light to see things and that dark is the absence of light. We will investigate shadows and how they are formed and identify the cause in the changes in the size of them.

Art/D&T

We will explore the work of Wassily Kandinsky and make a foray into the world of abstract art. The children will develop ideas in their sketchbooks and continue learning how to use their new watercolour palettes. We will also investigate shading light and dark tones with cross-hatching and pencil techniques.

ICT

The children will continue to work on basic functions such as logging on and off a computer. There will be a focus on using the correct fingers for each key on the keyboard – the beginnings of touch-typing. They will type and save, retrieve, edit and improve their work.

In groups, the children will begin to use PowerPoint to present information using themes, pre-sets and a range of animations.

RSE

We will encourage the children to recognise their worth as individuals by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making amends and setting personal goals. We will discuss the importance of staying safe and physical boundaries. They will think about how their actions affect themselves and others.