



The Blake CE Primary School

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Committed to the care and education of your child within a Christian setting

13th September 2018

Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! We hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday. The children have quickly settled into their new classes and we are all looking forward to a successful year.

Staff Team

We have a wonderful team in Year Three to support and teach your children. Mrs Hayes and Miss Hinkins are leading the classes. Mr Noble will cover PPA for 3FH on Monday afternoon and for 3VH on Tuesday morning. Our team of dedicated and enthusiastic teaching assistants who assist in class and work with the children on a one-to-one and small group basis include Mrs Channer, Ms Peach, Mrs Sayles, Mrs Khan, Mrs Hurley and Mrs Smith. As a Year Three team we work very closely together to ensure that both classes cover the same learning objectives and skills.

Year 3 Changes

Lunchtime- Year Three children have their lunches in the hall at 12.30pm in the second sitting after playing outside from 12.00 Midday. They also have a morning and afternoon play. They no longer have free fruit or vegetable snacks provided so we would encourage each child to bring from home fruit or vegetable snacks for break times (separate from their lunch boxes) as well as a named bottle filled with water.

Curriculum- French and Swimming are additional subjects in the Year Three curriculum. French is usually taught for 30 minutes every week and swimming lessons will begin in Term Four. Further details will follow closer to the time. Our topic this term is the author Roald Dahl; we will soon be reading and sharing lots of his stories and poems. There will be a trip in October or November to the Roald Dahl Story Centre in Aylesbury. A separate letter will be sent with all the details and costs when that has been finalised.

Cloakrooms

As you have probably already noticed the cloakrooms are small in the department so we ask the children to line up outside the cloakroom door to allow them to flow through safely and we are continuing the Year Two routine of children coming into the cloakroom in the mornings independently. We encourage the children to be increasingly responsible for their own book bags (remembering them every day), PE kits, shoes and coats. If you could ensure everything is named (especially shoes and jumpers) this will hopefully make things a little easier for the children.

P.E.

P.E. kits should be in school all week. Both classes have indoor P.E. on Thursday and outdoor P.E. on Friday. Year Three will swim during terms 4, 5 and 6 which will replace indoor P.E. Long hair needs to be tied back for P.E. and so a hair-tie should be brought if required. Earrings need to be removed by the child prior to the start of the lesson. Surgical tape has to cover any new earrings if your child has recently had their ears pierced. Some children choose not to wear earrings on P.E. days as they find this easier. Please note children are not allowed to swim at all with earrings. We would ask that all kit and school uniform is named as it makes it easier to return lost items. P.E. is part of our curriculum and so children are expected to take part in all lessons unless a letter is brought excusing them for medical reasons.

Reading

Your child has a Reading Diary for recording their reading, both at home and at school. Adults who hear them read or who read to them can write in the diary. The children will have opportunities to record their progress and comments about the book, words or author in their diaries within class and they can also write in their diaries at home too. Book bags with reading books and diaries should be brought to school every day. We have a central book area in our middle area with a mixture of reading scheme books along with chapter books from a variety of authors. We also visit our school library every Friday. The children can choose an additional book to read alongside their normal reading book and change them during our Friday Library sessions. We do monitor their choices to ensure they are reading at the appropriate level and challenge for them individually. In school we work with the children in their guided reading groups and also individually. We are aiming for an adult to hear your child read at least once a week. Children are encouraged to change their own books and choose appropriate books for their level.

Home Learning Activities

Home Learning activities will be sent home to support and reinforce work done in the classroom. This will be set on a Friday and will be due back the following Wednesday. This work should be mainly done by the child but support may be given if required. Your child will be given a Home Learning Book where the tasks are recorded and completed. We also recommend that children read for a short time (10-15 minutes) every night, or share a book, either fiction or non-fiction, with an adult. Spellings will be sent home each week based on the pattern that we have been working on in the week, as well as any of the most commonly used words that your child still needs to learn. Your child will be tested on these and regular revision of them also helps to consolidate their knowledge. The children will also be given key number facts to learn. More details and useful online activities can be found on the school website in the Maths Curriculum Area.

Rewards

To promote positive attitudes and values, we reward our pupils in a variety of ways. The school gives out Values Award certificates each week in assembly which celebrate how the school's values are being shown by pupils within their classes or on the playground. Work and behaviour are praised in Year Three by collecting marbles or pompoms and putting them into a central pot. This way, the children collectively contribute to the class reward when the pot is full. The reward is often an extra playtime. Star of the Day certificates are awarded every day. Rewards are given for a range of things including: good listening, excellent work, trying their best, tidying their table or area, helping others etc. We find this encourages team work, excellence in their work and a sense of responsibility for their class surroundings. We have written a class code and promises together and these are used to help the classroom be a safe and happy learning environment.

Queries and concerns.

Please feel free to pop in if you have any questions, queries or worries - it is much better for us to be aware of any worries so we can address them quickly together. We would ask that, if possible, you pop in after school as there is a little more time to discuss matters - the mornings tend to be quite busy.

We look forward to a busy, happy and successful year for all.

Mrs Hayes, Miss Hinkins, Mr Noble, Mrs Channer, Mrs Peach, Mrs Sayles, Mrs Khan, Mrs Hurley and Mrs Smith.