



# The Blake CE Primary School

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*Loving, learning and flourishing in community*

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## 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 3 to support and teach your children. Mrs Usher-Wilson and Mrs Castree are leading the classes. Our team of dedicated and enthusiastic Teaching Assistants support in class and work with the children on a one-to-one and small group basis. These include Mrs Channer, Mrs Jordan, Mrs Baker and Mr Morris. From after Christmas, our team will be joined by Mrs Rowlands for one afternoon a week, teaching RE. As a Year 3 team we work very closely together to ensure that both classes cover the same learning objectives and skills.

### Year 3 Changes

**Lunchtime** - Lunch break will be between 12pm and 1pm. Children 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 two healthy snacks (Fruit, vegetables, crackers, cheese etc.) for break times (separate from their lunch boxes) as well as a named bottle filled with water.

**Curriculum** - French is an additional subject in the Year 3 curriculum. French is usually taught for 30 minutes every week.

Our topic this term is the author Roald Dahl; we will soon be reading and sharing lots of his stories and poems. We are planning a trip to the Roald Dahl Story Centre in Aylesbury, Covid-19 restrictions allowing. A separate letter will be sent with all the details and costs when that has been finalised.

### P.E.

Both classes have P.E. sessions on a Wednesday, but P.E. kits should be in school all week. Long hair needs to be tied back for P.E. and so a hair-tie should be brought into school 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. 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 there is a medical reason that you have informed us about.

## **Independence**

We encourage the children to be increasingly responsible for their behaviour and organising themselves e.g. reading books, 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. As a school, we are using the concepts of Learning Powers to encourage positive strategies and attitudes to learning, e.g. Fred and Francesca Focus, Leo likes to Learn, Bananas wants to get better at things, Nutty likes to know and find out about things and lastly, Ellie the Elephant likes learning with everyone.

## **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. They can also write in their diaries at home. 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. In school, we work with the children in their guided reading groups as well as on an individual basis. 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 reading 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 quizzed 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 in Collective Worship, which celebrate how the school's values are being shown by pupils in class or on the playground. In addition, the children are encouraged to work as a team on their table for table points which can be earned for co-operation, kindness, showing care and respect for their working environment. The first team to complete their chart will earn a team reward.

Work and behaviour are praised in Year 3 by collecting marbles 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. To further promote positive attitudes to learning, we also use 'Star of the Day' or 'Yeti of the Week' awards; rewards are given for a range of things including: demonstrating our Learning Powers, good listening, excellent work, trying their best, tidying their table or area, helping others etc. We find this encourages teamwork, excellence in their learning and a sense of responsibility for their class surroundings. We use the school Code of Conduct to help the classroom be a safe and happy learning environment.

### **Queries and Concerns.**

Please feel free to pop in or phone the office, if you have any questions, queries or worries - it is much better for us to be aware of any issues so we can address them quickly together. We would ask that, if possible, you talk to us 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 Usher-Wilson, Mrs Castree, Mrs Channer, Mrs Jordan, Mrs Baker and Mr Morris.