



## Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

# Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another school year and welcome to Year 3. We look forward to working with you and your children this year. Here is some information about this half term that we hope you find useful:

### RE

Our topic is called 'In the Beginning' and we will be learning about our 'Creator.' We will be looking at the stories of creation and explaining the nature of God from these sources. We will also explore our responsibility for the world and each other. We will use Pope Francis's document *Laudato Si* to support this. We will discuss that everyone is valued equally and loved by God. During the topic we will also learn about prayer and our liturgies, including the Psalms. We will create our own prayers too.

**Key vocabulary:** etiology, Genesis, myth, adamah, ha 'adam, Yahweh, Yahwist, Priestly, Psalm, Liturgy, Prayer, Synagogue, Rabbi, narrative, hymn.

## English

Our class book will be called 'Ug'. It is a graphic novel (comic book) that follows the journey of Ug, the Stone Age boy, in his search for softer trousers. The children will be:

- developing and sustaining their ideas through discussion
- developing creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork
- composing writing for a wide variety of purposes (e.g. a Stone Age recipe, a postcard)
- writing in role in order to explore and develop empathy for characters

We will be focussing on using punctuation with increasing consistency and accuracy - particularly the use of capital letters and full stops (as well as exclamation marks, questions marks and speech marks). We will also incorporate spellings into our English lessons, learning a new spelling rule each week. We will post their spelling homework onto Google Classrooms each Friday.

Once a week, the children will have an English lesson dedicated to developing their knowledge and use of grammar.

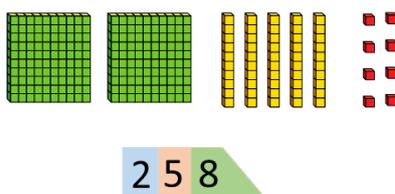
We teach whole class guided reading throughout the week, but ask that you try to read with your child for at least 10 minutes each day at home. Please focus on their understanding of the text and identify any words that they may not know the meaning of. Within the first week, children will be given a reading book to practise their skills at home, whilst we get to know your child and their current reading level.

Learning new vocabulary and building on their understanding of the texts they read are both essential skills in becoming competent readers. You may notice that the children progress through the colour reading bands much faster in the infants, this is due to them learning and applying their phonic knowledge and basic word reading. In the juniors there is a much greater emphasis on comprehension (inference and literal understanding) and the books are longer with much more complex vocabulary.

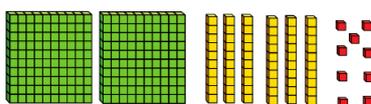
## Maths

Our main focus for this half term will be on the place value of numbers to 1000. The children will be:

- counting on and backwards in multiples of 100 (e.g. 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 etc and 1000, 900, 800, 700, 600).
- representing numbers to 100 pictorially e.g.



- partitioning numbers to 100 e.g.



$$\begin{aligned} 269 &= \underline{2} \text{ hundreds} + \underline{6} \text{ tens} + \underline{9} \text{ ones} \\ 269 &= 200 + 60 + 9 \end{aligned}$$

- finding 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a given number e.g.  $213 + 1$ ,  $213 + 10$ ,  $213 + 100$
- ordering and comparing numbers using the greater and less than signs ( $>$  and  $<$ ).

## History

Our topic is called 'Ancient Egypt'. The children will be locating Egypt on a map and learning about an important discovery made by archaeologist Howard Carter. We will be looking at how ancient Egyptians lived their lives and what they believed in (including mummification!). The children will also be learning about how ancient Egypt changed over time.

## Geography

This half term, our topic is called 'Rivers'. The children will be learning about the mighty River Indus (starting in Tibet) and how it changes as it moves along its course (through India and Pakistan). We will be looking at the 'water cycle', before exploring how a river shapes the land. Finally, we will be learning about Britain's longest river, the River Severn.

## Computing

Our topic is called 'We are programmers'. The children will be programming an animation on Scratch. They will learn to:

- plan and create an algorithm for an animated scene in the form of a storyboard
- write a program in Scratch to create the animation, including characters, dialogue, costumes, backdrops and sound
- review their animation programs and correct mistakes.

## E-Safety

Our topic is called 'We are Year 3 rule writers'. The children will be learning how to stay safe online at home and at school. They will sign a set of online safety rules for using technology at St Monica's.

## Science

Our topic will be called 'Plants'. Children will learn the parts of a plant, what they need to grow and how water moves around plants. In addition to this, children will learn why plants need flowers and the stages of the lifecycle of a flowering plant.

## PE

PE will take place on Thursdays (outdoors) and Fridays (in the junior hall). The children should come to school dressed for PE on those days in their green school PE kit. Please ensure that all earrings, watches and jewellery are removed.

This half term, we are very lucky to be having tennis lessons at Conway Park on Thursday afternoons. On Fridays, we will be doing gymnastics in school. Our topic is called 'Travelling with a change of direction'. The children will focus on improving the quality of their movement, working on control, consistency and accuracy. They will be performing sequences of at least five contrasting actions, shapes and balances on apparatus. Flow is also developed by linking the movements smoothly and adding variations in speed and direction. They may work with partners and in small groups, watching and commenting on the quality of performances and suggesting how they can be improved.

Throughout the term, we might be revisiting the Year 2 curriculum to recap learning and close any gaps that are identified in lessons.

We thank you in advance for your support at home.

With kind regards,

Mrs Warrington, Mrs Dinnage, Mrs Hoey and Christine