## **Year 3 Newsletter February 2024**

It has been a very busy first half of the spring term. The children have enjoyed writing two stories already. The first was an alternative fairy tale called 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' and the other was inspired by the Pixar short film, 'The Blue Umbrella'. Both stories have enabled to the children to write descriptive and humorous narratives. We have seen real progress with their use of language, working hard to up-level their vocabulary choices to make it more exciting for the reader.

In maths, we have been learning about different units of measure. We have learnt to measure the length of objects in millimetres, centimetres and metres. We have also just started our fractions unit which we will continue after half term. If you get the chance to practise any times tables at home over the half term, it could really help to support their understanding in lessons.

Finally, some very exciting news: Mrs Nash's beautiful baby girl has safely arrived. I am sure that you will all join us in wishing her the very best.

We hope that you have a restful half term and we look forward to having the children back on the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Miss Withers and the year 3 team.

#### Homework

All the children are now completing their weekly homework. Please remember that our expectations are:

- CGP Maths book- 1 workout per week
- Times Table Rockstars 10 minutes practice per week
- Spelling practice Weekly spelling list in their HSO
- SPAG.com- 1 set task per week
- Reading- 5/7 days to be recorded in their HSO

Each task should last at least 10 minutes.

We also ask that you sign your child's HSO each week.

If you have any queries about homework, please email your class teacher.

#### **Spring assessments**

Next half term, we will be taking part in assessments for reading, SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and maths using NTS formal assessments. Teachers will also be assessing writing using the independent writing activities which the children have already completed over the previous half term. As a school we use this information, along with in-class teacher judgements, to map out our future planning, intervention groups and highlight any gaps in knowledge which may need to be taught again.

Teachers and senior leadership (which includes Mr Stevenson, our Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for inclusion and SEND) meet to discuss all children within our termly 'Pupil Progress Meetings'.

We will let you know how your child has performed through our parents' evening session, and also through our 'Snapshot reports' which will be sent directly to you as parents on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Book bands will also change if appropriate, based on these assessments.

## Communication.

If you would like to contact your child's class teacher, please e-mail:

Oak - Miss Withers <a href="mailto:l.withers@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk">l.withers@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk</a>

**Ash - Mrs Abbott** <u>e.abbott@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk</u>

Elm - Mrs Miller <u>s.miller@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk</u>

#### Year 3 RE Islam talk with Mrs Rasheed

Our big question in RE this term has been 'How does worship (ibadah) show what is important to Muslims?'. Mrs Rasheed, one of our TAs, very kindly agreed to speak to Year 3 about Islam and answer lots of questions from the children. She showed us prayer mats, the Qur'an, traditional clothing and spoke about her own experiences, showing us lovely pictures. We learnt so much and it was a fantastic experience. Thank you Mrs Rasheed!









### **WOW Work!**

Every year group newsletter this year will include a piece of writing published from a child in our year group. It is a great way to showcase what we have been doing in school but also allow the children to see that their writing can have an audience.

This half term's work is by Isaac in Ash class. For his alternative fairy tale independent write, inspired by 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs', he has used exciting verbs, accurate speech punctuation and lots of descriptive vocabulary choices. Well done!

1	I can go to my neighbours. I thought to myself as if and it was a genius idea. When I got to the strum house I know on the door but the door just fell so I called little pig.  Little are you in and no answer came back when my rose
of the same	on the door but the door just fell so I called "Little pig"
Charles Annual	started to iteh so I huffed and I snuffed and seezed a
1000	great sneeze!
	The air was as yellow as corn when the straw house sile
	The air was as yellow as corn when the straw house sells. I know just from a sneeze well that's a straw house
1	Sor you wall I couldn't leave a perfectly good hum dinner just liting their so I ate it and it was succeedent.

## Spring 2 skills – Friday afternoons

Elm- PE with Complete Coaching

Oak- DT with Mrs Rowley and swimming with Mrs Tapley

Ash- PE with Mr Coles

### **Year 3 learning**

This half term the children have been busy working on a range of topics.

**History**: Our topic this term has been 'How have children's lives changed?'. We have compared children's lives between the Roman, Tudor and Victorian periods and found similarities and differences from our modern lives.

**DT**: Elm class have been making pneumatic toys in DT, learning how to make a mechanism that runs using air. Ash class have already completed their toys last term and Oak class have this to look forward to next term!

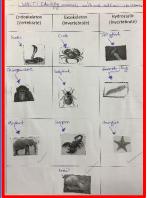
**Art**: We have focused on drawing and sketching this term, learning how to shade, add texture, tone and shadows to our drawings to make them more lifelike.

**Music**: We have enjoyed our Viking themed music topic this term, learning to develop our singing techniques as a class. We recapped our learning of notation reading and worked hard to sing and play instruments in time with others.

**Computing**: This term, we have been learning to code using a programme called 'Scratch' on the Chromebooks. We practised designing an algorithm (set of instructions for performing a task) to program a sequence of tasks for the character to do on the screen. We experimented by adding sound, movement, speech and changing characters and backgrounds in sequences. We even produced our own music by connecting sound sequences!

**PSHE:** We have been focusing on our 'Dreams and goals' this term, learning what it takes to be successful, how to manage frustrations and overcome challenges when following a dream.

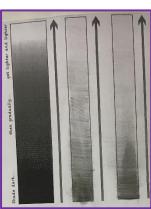
**Science**: This term, we have been learning about food and our bodies. We looked at different types of animals and what types of skeletons they have (e.g. endoskeleton, exoskeleton or hydrostatic skeleton). We also understood how muscles work and how they help our skeletons to function. We conducted a science experiment too, to explore the question 'Do males have bigger skulls than females?'. Ask you child to see what our results showed!











## **Spring 2 topics**

Next term, Year 3 will be looking forward to learning the following topics:

Maths: Fractions, Mass and CapacityGeography: Who lives in Antarctica?

• French: Playground games

PSHE: Healthy me

• RE: What is the Bible's 'big story' and why is it like a treasure for Christians?

• Science: Plants- How does your garden grow?

Don't forget, in the Year 3 section of our school website, you can view our knowledge organisers that we use in our afternoon lessons, that outline the key learning that will take place.

#### School Trip - Wisley Gardens

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Year 3 will be going on their first trip of the year to Wisley Gardens. Thanks to all the parents who have already volunteered to help. It is a great trip where the children will get a workshop about different types of seeds from around the world, an opportunity to plant a seed and tour the gardens to see the variety of plants.



# **Diary Dates**

February	Finish for half term: Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
	Inset day: Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
	Back to school: Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
	22 <sup>nd</sup> February: Girl Guiding World Thinking Day Members of the Girl Guiding Association
	may wear their uniforms to school
March	6 <sup>th</sup> March: Opal play afternoon and open classrooms
	<b>7</b> <sup>th</sup> <b>March:</b> World Book Day
	w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> March: British Science Week
	13 <sup>th</sup> March: Year 3 Wisley Gardens trip
	14 <sup>th</sup> March: PTA Bingo Night
	27 <sup>th</sup> March: Year 4 Easter service to school
	<b>28</b> th March: Last day of term (early finish) and Snapshot reports out and PTA Doughnut sale
April	15 <sup>th</sup> April: Children return to school
•	16 <sup>th</sup> April: Parents' Evening
	17 <sup>th</sup> April: Parents' Evening