



## Year 3 Spring Newsletter 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas. Much of our work this term will be linked to our exciting creative topic called 'Swallows and Amazons!' Here's a brief glimpse into what's in store for the children this term.

In **Geography** will be learning about the location of the Swallows and Amazons, the Lake District. We will be comparing its physical features and land use to that of Cambridgeshire. If you have any photographs or leaflets relating to this area, please ask your child to bring them in to share with their class! We will also be exploring maps, using grid references and following compass directions.

In **Science** we will be exploring 'Rocks and Soils' particularly those found on 'Wild Cat Island!!' The children will be handling a range of rocks and learning about their properties in a fun and interesting way. Later in the term we will be learning about magnets and springs. The children will be set a challenge where they will need to predict and plan their own experiments to discover the strongest magnet.

Our **D.T.** topic will involve preparing and cooking a nutritious soup for the Swallows and Amazons to enjoy and **Music** is voice based with fun sea songs and shanties.

We are linking much of our **Literacy** to our 'Swallows and Amazons' topic and will be developing the children's skills in writing. We will be focusing on texts such as: persuasive writing and formal writing e.g. letters for different scenarios, invitations and instructions. For fiction texts we will be keeping diaries and ship's logs as well as story writing. The children will be working at improving sentence structure and punctuation, making appropriate vocabulary choices to engage the reader and developing editing skills. We will of course be learning about some well known authors to the Lake District area including Arthur Ransome, Dick King-Smith and Beatrix Potter.

In **Maths** the children will be focusing on: securing recall of addition and subtraction facts and number pairs that total 100. They will be developing their understanding of the relationship of multiplication and division. Please help your child with his/her number skills by practicing times tables. There is an expectation for most children to know their 2,3,4,5 and 10 multiplication and division facts by the end of Year 3, so your support is

invaluable. Please give the children opportunities to handle and use money in real contexts as well.

**ICT** will be used within the curriculum as the children carry out research through selected websites. It will also be used to provide further practice in different mathematical skills.

Our **RE** topic is on Islam and in **PSHE** we will be 'Going for Goals'.

**PE** takes place on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please could your child bring appropriate indoor and outdoor PE kits (including suitable footwear and hair bobbles if required) on both days as circumstances and weather conditions may dictate where PE lessons take place.

Mrs Howes and Mrs Taylor are responsible for releasing the class teachers for their Planning, Preparation and Assessment time each week. Mrs Proctor will be supporting groups of children in the classroom.

We hope you find this information useful in supporting your child's learning. Please encourage your child to research topic areas at home to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

Best wishes,

Mrs O'Shea and Miss Mordue

