

## Year 3 Autumn Newsletter 2011



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 3!

Much of our work this term will be linked to our exciting creative topics called 'Katie meets Feargal Fly' and 'Katie meets Boudicca'. In the second part of the term our topic takes a Viking theme and is called Ruthless Raiders. Here's a brief glimpse into what's in store for the children this term.

We are linking much of our **Literacy** to our creative topics. Initially we will focus on the use of descriptive language as we talk, read and write about the different settings our Private Eye detective, Feargal Fly, finds himself in. The children will develop their researching skills as they find out more about the Roman invasion and life in Roman Britain. They will be learning how to present their findings in non-fiction report writing. The children will be learning about Thor and his magic hammer and then be writing their own quest.

**Reading** is an important part of the curriculum. Alongside guided reading in class, the children have an opportunity to read their individual reading book every day. For this reason we ask that the children bring their book bags into school every day. This encourages perseverance with an individual book and will allow children to change their books on any day of the week.

**Phonics** will be taught on a Thursday morning and will then be consolidated through the following week. Every morning the children practice their set spellings for the week which is linked to the main phonics session. If you would like more information on the spelling patterns and conventions to be taught, or would like a copy of the spellings for your child to practice at home, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

**Maths** is taught on a daily basis and begins with an emphasis on the understanding of place value and number as well as recall of mental facts. We would encourage you to support your child with knowledge of addition facts up to 20 and the matching subtraction facts. We will also be emphasising the multiplication facts of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, and then the 3 and 4 times tables.

In **Science**, we will be considering how materials are suited to their use. For example, we will think what properties of material would be best for the cloak of a legionary keeping guard outside all day!

**PHSCE** will be a prominent subject this term. As we begin the year we will emphasise the importance of rules and joint responsibility for our class environment. We will identify our strengths and abilities and how each member is valuable to the group. Later in the term our focus is on bullying - to know what it is and to consider positive actions

that can be taken if you witness bullying. You are invited to our Seal Anti-Bullying Assembly on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Through R.E. we will consider making a new start and celebrating Harvest. On the 27<sup>th</sup> September we will be visiting All Saints Church to celebrate the school harvest festival, for which we would really appreciate adult helpers. We will also be learning about the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

Class assemblies will soon be here to which you are warmly invited! Class 7 is on Friday 21st October and Class 8, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November, both beginning at 9.10am.

In **P.E.** we will focus on developing skills for basketball, netball and rugby; whilst in gymnastics we will be creating shapes sequences linking stretched and curled shapes. We would ask for P.E. kits to be kept in school from Monday to Friday each week. Please provide your child with tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt top, P.E. T-shirt and trainers for games, as well as shorts for gymnastics. Our P.E. days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**ICT** skills will be developed through our creative curriculum. For example, the children will combine text and photos to create a Feargal Fly detective story and use the search engine to find out about the Romans in History.

**Homework** will be set every Thursday and should not take longer than half an hour to complete. Please could children bring their homework books in for Tuesday. Daily reading and times table practice should also be emphasized at home.

**French** starts this term, with a weekly lesson taught by Mr Hicks (Monsieur X!) incorporating plenty of songs and games.

Mrs Proctor is the teaching assistant based in Year 3. Mrs Dingwall will be teaching Class 8 on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Mrs Howes teaching Class 7 on Thursday morning.

We look forward to working with you to support your child's learning. If you have any queries, we are available to discuss any issues with you at the end of the day.

Mrs O'Shea and Mrs Webb

