Welcome

The teachers—Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Bush, Miss Harvey and Mr Kuriger would like to welcome you to Year 3, as would our teaching assistants—Mrs Askari and Mrs Millward. We hope you had a fantastic summer, even if it seems like a distant memory!

Each half term we will write a newsletter, telling you about the learning for the next half term and any important dates which will be uploaded onto the school website:

http://www.stlaurencechurchjuniorschool.co.uk/year-3/

Please check the website regularly as spellings and other important information will be put on there!

English and Maths

We will be assessing the children week commencing 9th September in order to put them into sets. Although we try to keep sets as stable as possible, we will be constantly reviewing them and should we feel it necessary, we will move the children accordingly in order to meet their needs.

Children will be put into maths sets w/c 16.9.18 based upon our assessments and teacher judgement and English sets will start in half term two.

Homework

In order to help the children settle in to Year 3, we will be doing a phased approach to homework. Please see the timetable given out on a separate letter.

Usually, each week the children will receive two pieces of homework—Maths and English. The children will also be given a list of spellings to learn. Homework is set on a Friday and both pieces should be returned by Wednesday. Spellings are tested the following Friday. Please sign your child’s completed homework and, if appropriate, make a comment e.g. if any support has been given.

Reading

Children will have a weekly guided reading session with their class teacher and will soon be coming home with reading books. Initially, we will continue your child on the colour band book they had in the Infants though this is subject to change as we carry out our assessments. During our guided reading sessions we not only listen for fluency in reading but also make sure the children understand what is happening in the text. The understanding of the text is what we will judge the reading on, not just the ability to read.

Please continue to encourage your children to read at home as they are rewarded a ‘smiley’ face for three quality entries in their diaries every week. Please initial their entries to show that you have heard or seen them read. We welcome your comments about their reading in their diaries too.

Children can also record additional books read in their reading diaries. Don’t forget this can include books from home.

Green, Orange and Red cards

Here at St Laurence Juniors, we have very high expectations of our children and we aim to encourage positive behaviour. We reward this positive behaviour in a number of different ways such as giving out house points and green cards—a green card is equivalent to a house point.

Unfortunately, there are times when the children need to be reminded to demonstrate good behaviour. If this is the case, a child will be given a personal reminder in order to cease the unacceptable behaviour. If the behaviour still continues, the child is issued with an orange card, this is a visual reminder for the child to stop the behaviour. If the child then displays good behaviour for the rest of the lesson, the orange card will be taken off them. If the unacceptable behaviour continues, after being given an orange card, the child will then be given a red card and timed out to another class for 15 minutes. Three red cards in one half term will lead to a lunch time detention. For any more information, please refer to our behaviour policy.
**THE CURRICULUM**

Our topic for this half term is **Scavengers and Settlers**. During this topic, we will be going back in time to investigate various historical periods in Britain including, The Stone and Bronze ages and The Iron Age Celts. Within the theme, the children will be using their investigative skills to identify rocks and their properties and in art, we will be colour mixing and creating our own Celtic patterns and weaving.

**Maths**

Our focus in maths this term will be place value, addition and subtraction skills and multiplication and division. Times tables and number bonds are also vital in all areas of maths, so children will be encouraged to recall facts and tables quickly. By the end of year three, children are expected to know their 3,4 and 8 times tables as well as the 2,5 and 10 times tables from year 2. By the end of year 4, pupils need to know all of their tables (up to 12) and will sit a times table test (government initiative). To aid your child with this, it would be helpful if you could help them at home with learning the rapid recall of the times tables. Learning to tell the time is also part of the year 3 curriculum and is also a life skill. We will be covering time but would really appreciate your help with this at home. It is important that by the end of year 3 your child can tell the time, simple games at home could aid with this.

[https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/116/telling-the-time](https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/116/telling-the-time) is just one example of a time game.

**English**

In English, our main focus will be on the building blocks of phonics for reading and spelling, as well as writing. We will be exploring a story about a tiger and then re-writing our own version of a similar adventure.

**PE**

This year, swimming will be done as weekly sessions at Northfield Baths. Each class will go during Autumn (3L), Spring (3J) and Summer (3S) terms.

More information will follow in due course. **Swimming will make up your child’s PE entitlement for this term as this includes the walk to and from the swimming lesson.** Please ensure that your child has both an indoor and an outdoor kit in school everyday-including pumps AND trainers. Children will need to remove jewellery and watches for PE - if your child is unable to remove his or her own earrings, please provide tape to cover their ears for the PE lesson. Also, if your child is unable to participate due to illness or injury, we request that a letter is sent to the class teacher.

**PE timetable for this term:**

- 3S’s PE lessons will be on Monday and Friday
- 3L will be swimming every Thursday
- 3J’s PE lessons will be on Monday and Friday

**Money! Money! Money!**

In the Juniors all children are responsible for their own money. Children will only need money for a snack/ drink at break time if they wish. Lunch orders will be placed using the online system iPay.

Please make sure that any money is in a named small purse or wallet. (Loose money in pockets is easily lost.)

Finally, there are many changes in routine at the start of the new school year and we thank you for your patience, while we get these up and running. If you have any questions or queries about anything please feel free to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Best Wishes,

The Year 3 Team

**REMINDERS:**

- Please label all items-lunchboxes, PE kit, water bottle, clothing.
- Art aprons: An old, large shirt will be useful for painting.
- Please sign completed homework and reading record books weekly.
- Awards Assembly every Friday at 9am—you are welcome to join us.
- BIRTHDAYS! - Children are allowed to wear their own clothes to school on their birthday (or nearest school day) No football shirts please!
- If your child has an inhaler, they will need two in school. One stored in the first aid room, the second to be on their person. Both need to be named please.
- Hair needs to be tied back so it doesn’t cover their eyes when they are working.
- Large hair bows are not to be worn in school.
- Only small silver or gold stud earrings to be worn in school please.