



Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Year 3 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break! We hope you all managed to have a restful and relaxing week off. The children have come back ready and raring to go to kickstart their new science-based topic: Powerful Plants! We had a brilliant topic launch during our first week back where the children learnt how to plant a seed, revisited their instruction writing skills, planted their own cornflower seeds to watch grow over the course of our topic and drew a labelled diagram of their plants. They then finished off the afternoon practising their artistic skills sketching different types of flowers!

Some important dates for your diary this half term are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of April when our Parents' Evening meetings will be held. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's wellbeing and attainment with their class teacher. Appointments are limited to ten minutes to ensure there is enough time for everybody but please do contact your child's teacher separately if you are needing a longer appointment and they will be happy to accommodate this. More information on this to follow.

World Book Day is also coming up on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. More information on this will follow from the English team shortly, but the children will be off-timetable for this day with a whole day dedicated to promoting the love of reading. Children will be invited to dress as their favourite character from a book if they wish. If this is something your child does not enjoy, please do not worry. There are plenty of book characters who can be used that wear regular mufti clothes, or if they would prefer to stick to school uniform that is no problem. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns regarding this.

### Curriculum

Our topic this half term focusses specifically on a Science topic – Plants. In this topic, the children will learn the different scientific names for the parts of a plant, what a plant needs in order to grow, how water is transported in plants to keep them healthy, and how seeds are dispersed to continue plant growth. There will be opportunities for observational experiments and (if the children follow their own advice on what plants need to grow!) they will have a beautiful plant to take home at Easter!

### English

In our English lessons, we will utilise our knowledge gained from our Science lessons to compile an information text all about plants. In this unit, we will look at how information texts can be laid out, using genre-specific features such as headings, sections, diagrams and a glossary. This will be a fantastic way for the children to celebrate their scientific learning and present it in a concise and formal way!

In our grammar lessons, we are going to recap on basic sentence structure using capital letters and full stops expressing time, place and cause using both conjunctions and adverbials, identifying the subject, verb and object from sentences and also identifying and using determiners. We are starting to see more and more of these grammar features being used in their writing which is excellent, and we are all so pleased with the progress that all of the children have made so far in their writing! Please ensure that, if your child is writing anything at home, you are encouraging them to check for capital letters and full stops, as these are crucial in their writing fluency and building great habits to lead them all the

way through their lives. We are, as a school, pushing joined cursive handwriting so please do encourage this at home with correct letter formations and joins.

You will find that the grammar homework (intertwined with the reading homework) links to an area of grammar that we have previously covered in class. As always, if you are ever unsure of grammatical terminology, please do reach out to your class teacher – a lot has changed over the years! No question is ever a silly question.

### Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will be learning about calculating perimeter by adding lengths, including calculating perimeter where there are missing lengths. We will then move onto learning about Fractions, where the children will learn about unit fractions, ordering unit fractions, understanding the numerator and denominator in fractions and what they represent, placing fractions on a numberline and calculating equivalent fractions both visually and through using their times tables knowledge.

Times tables underpins all of our maths topics and it is important that our children are confident in quickly recalling both the multiplication and division facts in any order: we hope that they continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars as well as any other methods they enjoy to practise their times tables at least 5 times a week.

### PSHE

In PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economics) this term we will be looking at the unit, Healthy Me. We will be looking at the importance of exercise as well as all of the times during our school day that we have the opportunity for exercise – I think the children will be surprised at how much of their daily hour they do already at school! We will be discussing how our body feels when we exercise and the many benefits exercise has, both for our physical fitness but also our mental health too. We will look at the importance of the balance of food and exercise and how too little or too much of either can change how we feel. The children will be taught about keeping our bodies healthy and how drugs can be both good and bad for us, depending on the situation. We will also be learning about what to do in an emergency, who to call and what to do if they feel unsafe or need help, as well as how to handle a 999 emergency call. These are all valuable life skills that can be crucial if ever they find themselves in a dangerous situation. As always, these topics will be delivered sensitively and age-appropriately. Please do speak to your child's class teacher if any of these topics may be triggering for your child and we can ensure that they are included in a way best for them.

### PE

PE is still timetabled for Tuesdays and Fridays. As the wind and rain persists, please ensure your child has suitable outdoor footwear for their PE lessons and the correct Connaught PE uniform. We have a selection of second hand, affordable uniform available from the office should you need anything. We will be taking the children outside whenever possible and sometimes out onto the field so please do send them in warm clothes. Again, please name all items clearly as things can sometimes get lost during the school day. We do also recommend keeping a spare pair of socks in your child's bag in case their own get wet whilst on the field.

### And finally...

As always, we are always outside at the end of the day and available should you wish to speak to us. If you would like more time, a phone appointment can be arranged at a time that suits you. Class email accounts are regularly monitored and this is often the best way to pass on quick notes or to ask questions. We always aim to foster positive relationships with our parents so if you have a question about anything at all, approaching us directly is the best way forward to ensure that you get the most accurate information possible.

Kind regards,  
The Year 3 Team

Mrs Blight-Skipp

Mrs Youle

Miss Knight

Mr Hornsby