

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Year 3 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to both Connaught Junior School and also Year 3!

We hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer holiday and that your children are feeling ready and raring to go for their new journey with us at Connaught. The Year 3 team have all thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children during the first week and we cannot wait for what else is to come this year. The team this year consists of Mr Weeks (Head of Year 3) in Matterhorn, Miss Butler in Olympus, Mrs Youle in Eiger and Miss Knight in Snowdon.

Our first priority is to help all of the children settle into their new school and classes, and help them to build and nurture new friendships. We will all be carefully monitoring the wellbeing of all the children as they make this transition. Please encourage your child to discuss any concerns or worries they have with their class teacher or teaching assistant as soon as possible so they can find a solution quickly.

We will also need to assess the children at some point during this first half term, but we will be waiting until they are more settled into their new school and routine. This will then allow the teaching team to establish where there are knowledge gaps across the year group, as well as spotting more individual needs in order to address these over the course of the term.

Learning

Alongside this letter, you will receive our theme overview for our first half term's topic – Tribal Tales. Please do discuss this with your child at home. As part of this history topic, we will **place events in chronological order**, become more familiar with **time-based terminology** and **generate questions** around the Stone Age and Iron Age.

In **English**, the children will learn about instructional texts and explore key grammatical features such as word classes, punctuation, tenses and plurals of words. Linking to our topic, our instructional texts will be based around Survival Guides in the Stone Age era and building a typical home from the Iron Age!

In **Maths**, the children will cover place value, addition and subtraction. If you are unsure of any methods taught at school, please do speak to your child's class teacher. There will also be a weekly focus on mental maths and times tables. At Connaught, we use Times Table Rock Stars which is an online platform to support the learning of times tables. Children have logon details in their homework diaries so please ensure your child practises by logging on at home. Times tables underpins all of our mathematical concepts and is vital as they move through the school.

In **Science**, our unit of work is Rocks and Soils – we will be learning about the different types of rocks that can be found, how they are formed, and even taking a closer look at some rocks ourselves. Get ready to become scientists!

Homework

At Connaught, we have designed our homework in a way that accommodates busy family life. We appreciate that many of your children may have commitments outside of school, such as exciting clubs or hobbies, and we want to work

Headteacher: Miss S McGann

Deputy Headteacher: Miss K Whiting

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around those in a way that supports you best. On Mondays, the children will receive their homework for the week and have the whole week to complete their homework.

Each week the children will be required to do the following homework tasks:

- **Read at least 5 times a week.** This needs to be recorded on the white pages adjacent to the diary section in the homework diary. Please ensure that you and your child fill this in together: it is useful to have the name of the book, the pages read and any comments you feel are helpful for their class teacher to know. **We will be sending banded books home as soon as possible. If for whatever reason, your child has not brought a book home, they will be able to use BugClub which is an online reading platform. Logins for this will be provided as soon as possible.**
- **Talk homework.** The question is linked to the theme of the week and is a positive way to begin a helpful and insightful discussion. Please sign the homework diary to acknowledge this has been completed.
- **Arithmetic Maths sheet.** The aim is to give children time to practise their core skills. This will be completed in a separate Maths Homework book. Children should be spending approximately 15 minutes on their maths homework. The homework is divided into four sections that get progressively harder, and your child can choose to start on either **Base Camp** or **Climbing**. There is no expectation that children will complete all of the questions.
- **Practise weekly times tables.** It is recommended that these are practised daily to embed the knowledge for at least 5 minutes each day. Times Table Rock Stars is a website which can be accessed either via a computer or the app on a phone or tablet. **We will provide you with logins as soon as possible.**
- **Spellings.** The children will have access to the online platform Spelling Shed where they can practise their spellings. Their login details will be sent home and also stuck into their homework diaries. Please contact your child's teacher if you do not have these.

Details of the week's homework will be stuck in your child's diary and can also be found in the Parent section of the school website. This is useful if ever your child is absent or forgets their homework sheet. Once your child has completed each part of their homework, please sign or initial their diary in the relevant place.

Timetable

PE lessons are timetabled for Tuesday and Friday; it is vital that pupils wear their full PE kit in school on these days. Please note that earrings must **not** be worn for PE and the children should be able to remove these themselves: tape over earrings is not permitted for safety reasons. Sometimes PE kit does get lost, so please make sure all of your child's belongings are all named along with any uniform, lunchboxes and equipment they bring.

Communication

Your class teacher can be contacted via the class email address using their class name e.g. matterhorn@cjs.tamat.org.uk. For communication relating to absences or for the attention of another member of staff, please contact the main school email address on school@cjs.tamat.org.uk.

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We are always outside at the end of the day and available should you wish to speak to us once we have dismissed the children. Safeguarding our children and getting them home with the correct adults is paramount so please do wait until after the class has been dismissed to talk to your class teacher. If you would like more time or wish to speak about a sensitive matter, we are happy to arrange a phone conversation or a meeting at a convenient time.

We are here to help so if you have any questions at all, please do approach us either at the end of the school day or via our class emails where we will be happy to help.

Best wishes,

Mr Weeks

Miss Butler

Miss Knight

Mrs Youle

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