



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Year 3 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3 at Connaught Junior School! We are all very happy to have started the new school year with a full cohort of children and I hope that you are all equally happy to have begun your child's journey through our school. We have been busy making changes to our school routine that enable us to welcome our children back and I am confident that we have struck the right balance in providing children with a social, friendly and welcoming learning environment that is also as safe as possible.

Each half term, we send out a curriculum letter, accompanied by a theme overview, which is designed to give you some information regarding the key themes we will be covering and some more detail about each term's topic.

#### Recovery curriculum

The past six months have been very difficult for a number of our children and many will struggle to adjust back to life in school. During the first few weeks of term we will be accessing a 'recovery' PSHE curriculum, where we will spend time reflecting on our experiences of lockdown and the school closure in an age-appropriate way. This will enable us to reach an emotional stage where we are then ready to fully progress with the academics of school. Our recovery lessons are based upon those created by JIGSAW, the programme we use for our usual PSHE lessons, and are specially tailored for young children, helping us to ensure that they will not cause further emotional harm or bring up unwanted memories.

#### Curriculum

Our history topic this term is Tribal Tales and in the next few weeks the children will be experiencing a launch event to kick start their learning. This is an exciting topic for us at Connaught and the Y3 teaching team have been working very hard to plan lessons that we hope will engage and excite the children! 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, we will be writing **instructions** and making our own survival guides for life during the Stone Age. Later in the term we will be exploring descriptive language by working on our own **character and setting descriptions**. All of these units will be tied into our Tribal Tales topic, making the children's learning more engaging and relevant.

During the Autumn term, our children will also be conducting a short **class talk** on the subject of '**My Favourite Thing**'. This helps develop their speaking and listening skills and importantly gives us an opportunity to find out more about them and their experiences outside of school. We will be sending out more information about this nearer the time.

In mathematics, we will be learning about **number and place value** and **addition and subtraction**. We will continue to build up our children's fluency in these areas and ensure that we have filled any gaps in their knowledge and application created by time away from school.

Each term we focus on a different times table and this term we will be recapping the **2 times table**, ensuring that all children have a solid foundation in doubling and halving before we move on to more unfamiliar times tables later in the year. Children need to learn both the multiplication and division facts within the 2 times table up to  $2 \times 12$  and  $24 \div 2$ . At Connaught we use a website called *Times Table Rock Stars* to practise them in an engaging and exciting way and we hope that you will encourage your children to use this regularly.

In science, our unit of work is **Rocks and Soils**. We will be learning about the different properties of various types of rocks and how to identify them. We will learn how fossils are formed as well as the importance of soil.

### PE

PE is timetabled for Thursdays and Fridays. On both days, children should come into school wearing their PE kit. During the colder weather the children will need a school tracksuit as, where possible, PE will be held outside. Please note that stud earrings must not be worn for PE and the children should be able to remove these themselves. Sometimes, PE kit does get lost so please make sure your child's belongings are all named.

### Homework and Homework Diary

The **Homework Diary** is provided by the school and used as a form of communication between school and home. Diaries are collected in and checked at the start of each week, so do please let your child know if you have written a note throughout the week that they need to show to their teacher.

We aim to give homework to the children that is effective in supporting their learning and flexible for parents and carers in how it is managed at home. Starting next week all homework will be **set on Monday** and needs to be **completed by the following Monday**. 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. Each week there will be a different grammar or punctuation focus and your child will need to record their response in their diary.
- **Talk homework.** Talk homework simply involves your child talking to you or another member of their family about a set question. The question is linked to the theme of the week and is a positive way to begin a helpful and insightful discussion.
- **Complete 15 minutes of maths arithmetic.** Each week we set a selection of arithmetic questions for children to complete in their blue maths homework books. Similarly to our maths lessons, the homework is divided into four sections that get progressively harder and your children can choose to either start on **Base Camp** or **Climbing**. A wide variety of questions are provided each week and there is no expectation that children will complete all of the questions.
- **Complete 15 minutes of Times Table Rocks Stars.** Times Table Rock Stars is a website which can be accessed either via a computer or the app on a phone or tablet. **Garage** mode allows children to practise just their set times table while **Studio** mode allows them to test their knowledge of all times tables up to 12 x 12.
- **Practise spellings.** Each week your child will be given a set of spellings to learn which they will then be tested on the following Monday. For spellings to be learnt with the greatest long term impact, we find it is most beneficial for them to be practised in small chunks throughout the week

Details of the week's homework will be stuck in your child's diary and can be found in the Parent section of the school website. Once your child has completed each part of their homework, please sign or initial their diary in the relevant place.

Your class teacher can also be contacted via the class email address e.g. [matterhorn@cjs.tamat.org.uk](mailto:matterhorn@cjs.tamat.org.uk). However, for communication relating to absences or for the attention of another member of staff, please contact the main school email address.

### And finally...

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 or wish to speak about a sensitive matter, we are happy to arrange a phone conversation.

We always aim to foster positive relationships with our parents so if you have a question about anything, please feel confident in approaching us directly.

Kind regards,

Mr Stevens

Mrs Meredith

Mrs Evans

Mrs Carroll

Miss Parkinson