



## Y3 Rhine Class Curriculum Newsletter

Summer 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable break. The class have started very positively and calmly as they begin their last full term in Year 3, building on their learning in an increasingly independent way in a range of contexts and preparing for the next stage in Year 4. Our topic this term is '**Extreme Earth**'. We will be investigating our planet and thinking in particular about the rocks and soils below our feet and how they can become part of something even more dramatic, whether a mountain, a volcano or even an earthquake! We will also be developing our map skills and in particular identifying different landscapes across Europe, especially the Alps. Each week we will also be learning about and from nature as well as demonstrating our learning individually and as part of a team in **Forest School**. This takes place every Tuesday afternoon and children need to bring clothes and shoes to change into and that can get muddy – given the current weather, sun hats may even be needed!

In **Maths**, we will be continuing working on our Maths Passport targets, which aim to set secure foundations in arithmetic. We work towards these every day and our aim is to complete ten questions for each target in 30 seconds! It really helps if we can practise them at home for ten minutes every day. Each child has specific targets to which they are working and these can be found on the laminated target sheet previously sent home with each child. If you are unsure of these, please ask and we can send home new copies. Equally if you would like any supporting materials or games which you think might help your child at home, please see me.

We are also working on using the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in different situations and contexts. This might involve using money and giving change, deciding on appropriate ways to solve word problems, exploring patterns of number or using more than one operation at a time when solving problems (amongst other things). Please continue to support your child by including Maths in everyday conversations and interactions with your child.

Our class book for this half term is '**James and the Giant Peach**' by Roald Dahl and it will feature throughout our **writing**, as will our topic. We will continue to focus on ensuring we have varied and interesting sentences that make sense and are appropriate for the audience and purpose. This will include extending our sentences with connectives, using a variety of sentence openers and appropriate use of detailed language, whether more precise or more descriptive. We will continue to develop strategies for checking, editing and improving our first draft writing independently.

Every day children should bring into school their book bag, including their **reading** books from the school library/reading scheme and their spelling book. The children will continue to receive new spellings to practise each week and can change their books on a weekly basis. We suggest that Year 3 children **read to an adult four to five times every week for about ten minutes each time**. This can be supported by questions from the Reading Comprehension bookmark. Please let me know if you would like any additional copies.

To help practise all of these skills, each individual child has a password that allows access to both the **Mathletics** and **Spellodrome** websites. These passwords have previously been sent home but if you do not have a copy, please let me know. As well as the book bags and passwords, children should also continue to bring in appropriate clothing for our non-classroom activities: **P.E. (Fridays), Forest School (Tuesdays) and Swimming (Thursdays from April 30th)**.

Across most of this term, the class will benefit from the enthusiasm and new ideas of Miss Spence, who will be teaching the class for most of the week on a PGCE placement under my supervision. This is part of a new Schools Direct programme where a cluster of schools in Leeds are working together on teacher training, allowing us a greater involvement in selecting and developing appropriate candidates. I will also continue to teach the class myself at various points with the exception of Monday afternoons when **Ms Virgin** will teach Art and **Mrs Maver** will teach writing whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. Throughout the week the children will also benefit from the support of **Miss Readman** and **Miss Smith**.

You will receive a separate homework leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home. Please remember that the most important homework you can do is reading together regularly, practising phonics and spellings and helping children to learn facts for their Maths Passport targets.

We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you

Mr Martin, Miss Spence, Miss Readman and Miss Smith

| <b>Staff working in class this half term</b>                             | <b>Days when clothing needed</b>                                | <b>Spelling day</b>                      | <b>Library book day</b> |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| Mr Martin<br>Miss Spence (trainee teacher)<br>Miss Readman<br>Miss Smith | Swimming – Thursday<br>P.E. – Friday<br>Forest School - Tuesday | Test – Monday<br>New spellings - Tuesday | Wednesday               |