



# Stone

Church of England Combined School

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Stone Church of England Combined School

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## Building stepping stones to success



*Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School*

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for all the excitement that Year 3 has to offer. In this letter I hope to give you and your child an introduction to the next stage of their learning journey.

Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have about the routines and learning activities that your child will be engaged in during the next academic year. However, please do come and ask me if there is anything that I have not included that you would like to know.

### The Year 3 team

Miss Diamond is the class teacher and Mrs Edwards/ Mrs Witty/ Mrs Cobley will be supporting us in class. Your child will also have a specialist coach from Premier Sport for PE and Mrs Hale for RE on Thursday afternoons.

### Homework

Home learning will be given out weekly, on a Friday, and is due back in on the following Wednesday morning. Your child will be given a home learning book for written tasks and a maths home learning book for number tasks. Both of these books should be kept in their home learning folder. Your child needs to take responsibility for his/her learning, developing a routine and making sure that home learning is not left to the last minute. Children should be able to complete their home learning independently; they will be set a 20 minute English task and a 20 minute maths task every week.

Every week, your child will receive spelling words to learn. There will be a spelling test every Wednesday. The spelling test will be done at the back of your child's home learning book, in order for you to monitor their progress and recap any words of which they are unsure. There is a spelling menu in the back of your child's home learning book to give them a variety of ways to practise their spellings.

### Reading

**Reading is an important part of your child's home learning** and they should be reading for at least 15 minutes daily, ideally to an adult. Your child should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and make time for reading a variety of texts: stories, information texts, magazines, newspapers, poetry, recipes, instructions, lists, cartoons, brochures, etc.

This year we will continue using the reading record booklet, and we would love it if you could record your child's home reading in there **three times a week**. It is still really important for them to read aloud regularly in order to discuss the content of what they have read. This will improve their comprehension, broaden their vocabulary and allow them to develop their skills of empathy and deduction.

As a class, we will visit our fantastic brand new library every **Monday**. In this time, the teachers and teaching assistants will be supporting the children in selecting appropriate books. Each week your child will bring home a library book that they can swap in weekly library sessions. Once they have completed the lime book band books, they will be considered 'Free readers' and will be expected to read a book of their own choice at home. We hope that this will encourage the children to love reading as much as we do!

Guided reading will take place every day. The children will take part in a range of reading activities and will read with the teacher once a week. We will be reading with your child in a group session once a week and will sign/make a comment once a week.

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3*



### **Mathematics**

In Year 3, the children will begin working with bigger numbers than in KS1, so it is important that they understand the place value of 3 digit numbers very quickly. We are working on this in class, but it would be fantastic if you could reinforce this at home, maybe asking them to explain the value of digits. We will also be consolidating and extending their four written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and applying these in a variety of problem solving contexts.

Key new learning in year 3 includes:

- Place value of 3 digit numbers
- Recall 3, 4 and 8 times tables and related facts
- Estimating calculations
- Tell the time to the nearest minute and recall time facts e.g. days in a year
- Identify and name angles and lines
- Counting in tenths; finding equivalent fractions; ordering fractions

Children should also be practising their times tables regularly; the three key times tables for this year group are the 3s, 4s and 8s, as they should already know their 2s, 5s and 10s from year 2. It is important that as they learn their tables, that they develop an understanding of the link between multiplication and division, so when learning their tables they need to know that while  $7 \times 3 = 21$  it is also the case that  $21 \div 3 = 7$  and  $21 \div 7 = 3$  etc. The children can learn their tables in any way that suits them, and we will be covering several different approaches in class to help them. Popular methods include learning songs (Mr DeMaio and Percy Parker are favourites), using a 100 square to identify patterns and, of course, learning by rote. We will also continue to have a 99 Club test every Friday.

### **PE**

PE will take place with Miss Diamond on a Monday and a Premier Sport coach on a Thursday - the children must please have their PE kit at school on these days. If they could come to school on these days without wearing any jewellery, that would be a great help as we will need to cover earrings with tape for health and safety reasons.

### **Creative curriculum**

Our topic this half term is 'The Flintstones!'. In History, the children will be learning about the Stone Age to the Iron Age. I have arranged for a trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016**. The children will take part in two workshops during the day – a Mesolithic camp, where, amongst other things, they will get to make Stone Age paint and try to light fire using flint, and shelter building. A letter with the exact details will be sent out shortly.

I have attached our Curriculum forecast, showing what will be covered this half term. You will be able to find out further information about what we are covering in class each term on the school's website. I have also provided you with a list of the year 3 reading/ spelling words, a year 3 SPaG glossary, some question ideas for reading at home, and the year 3 Maths and English target sheets; personalised targets for your child will be given out during parent consultations in November.

### **Dates for your diary**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September – Skills for Life Parent Workshop 7pm  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – Chiltern Open Air Museum Trip  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 – e-Safety Parent Workshop 7pm  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>/ Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Consultations  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – Year 3 Flu Jabs  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 'Light' session in the mobile planetarium  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – Year 3 Enterprise Sale

I will be sending out further details about all of these exciting events closer to the time. Please see the whole school dates list for details of whole school events. If you have any queries about anything I have mentioned in this letter or indeed anything else you would like to talk about, please feel free to see me in the playground after school.

Kind regards

Miss Diamond