

Year 3 Spring Term Newsletter

Mon, Tues and Weds – Miss Smith
Thurs and Fri – Miss Koza



Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and new year.

In **English**, we will be reading Matilda by Roald Dahl as our class text. Through this story, we will be looking at diary writing, instructional texts and narrative writing. We will also be working on becoming adept at editing our work and talking about what we need to do to improve our English. Some objectives that we will be working on include: using fronted adverbials, writing in chronological order and using a range of conjunctions at the start and in the middle of sentences.

During our **Geography** lessons, we will be learning all about rivers. Our first lessons begin with an examination of the journey of a river. Subsequent lessons will have a focus on investigating rivers around the world, their key features and in what ways humans are connected to them e.g. transport.

In **History** we will be learning about Anglo-Saxon, Scots & Vikings. We will learn about the lives of people who lived in this period, how they lived, their homes, their jobs, what they ate and what they did for fun. We will discuss how we know about the lives of people who lived so long ago and learn about primary and secondary sources such as artefacts found at Sutton Hoo, places such as West Stow and the AngloSaxon Chronicle. We will also look at the religious beliefs of both the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings. Finally, we will learn about the Vikings and the significance of Viking Long ships that enabled them to travel, trade, raid and invade.

In **Art**, we will be studying the Art of Anglo-Saxons by focusing on objects found at the burial ground at Sutton Hoo. From this we will design our own metalwork using symmetry and interlocking patterns. After this, we will examine the Bayeux tapestry and design our very own illuminated letters with a focus on accurate and detailed paintbrush work.

During our **Computing** lessons in Spring 1 we will explore the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. It begins with an introduction to the programming environment, which will be new to most learners. They will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences. The final project is to make a representation of a piano. The unit is paced to focus on all aspects of sequences, and make sure that knowledge is built in a structured manner. Learners also apply stages of program design through this unit. In Spring

PE for this term will be on Mondays and Thursdays.

Can we ask that no jewellery be worn on these days please.

Upcoming Events

Wed 3rd January- INSET Day – School Closed

Thurs 4th January - Term 3 starts

Mon 12th – Fri 16th Feb Half Term – School Closed

Mon 19th Feb- INSET Day – School Closed

Tues 20th Feb Term 4 starts

Thurs 28th Mar - 1.45 end of term.

Fri 29th Mar – Fri 12th April - School Closed

We will be focusing on developing the children's understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects by using yes/no questions. The learners will create physical and on-screen branching databases. Finally, they will evaluate the effectiveness of branching databases and will decide what types of data should be presented as a branching database.

In **French** we will be consolidating all that we have learnt so far before starting the new topic, 'Our School'. Through singing, games and conversational roleplay, Year 3 will be learning lots of new vocabulary for things in the classroom, school subjects and items in their pencil cases. Ooh la la!

During **Science** in Spring 1 we will learn that there are different types of rocks and that rocks can be sorted into groups by their properties, developing this understanding by looking at the three main types of rocks and how they are formed. We will learn about permeability and test whether rocks are permeable or not. Using what they have learnt so far, we will learn that fossils are formed when rock forms around things that once lived. Finally, we will look at soil and what it consists of. In Spring 2 we will learn what a force is: a push or pull then we will develop this knowledge as we look at friction. This knowledge will be developed even further when we learn about magnetism as an invisible force. We will then look at the poles of magnets and what a magnetic field is. Finally, we will investigate whether the size of a magnet has any correlation with the strength of its magnetic field.

In **RE**, we will be starting our final unit on Sikhism: 'Who is Guru Nanak?' Through stories and class discussions, we will be looking into who Guru Nanak was and why he is so important to Sikh people.

In **Maths**, we will cover money; addition and subtraction of money both mentally, practically with coins and by using the written column method. We will be revisiting time, fractions and shape work, particularly revising properties of shapes and calculating their areas and perimeters.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask or contact us using the class email year3@datchetstmarysacademy.co.uk

Activities to do at home:

Please read with your child regularly and record this in their reading records. Ask them questions to check their understanding and encourage them to re-read the book to improve fluency and accuracy. Your child will be sent home with a new book on a **Monday** and **Thursday**.

Homework will consist of a maths workbook and an English activity and will be given on a **Friday** and is due in the following **Wednesday**.

Spellings will be set on a **Friday** for a test the following **Friday**. Please also encourage your child to log onto **spelling frame** regularly.

Please also encourage your child to use **doodlemaths** and practice their times tables – they will be tested on these every other Friday as well as completing arithmetic tests.