



Welcome to Woodpecker Class



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! I hope that your child will settle in quickly and is very happy throughout their time in Woodpecker class. I am delighted to be teaching the class this year for what will be an exciting year with so many fascinating and fun things to learn as the children build their independence. The purpose of this letter is to tell you a bit about the basic class routines, how you can help your child at home and topics we will cover this year.

Teaching staff

I will be teaching Woodpeckers each day with the help of Mrs Lucas who will be with us on all days except Monday and Friday afternoons. We will also have Mrs Dalglish working with us on Monday afternoons.

On Tuesday afternoons, Mrs Ekoku will be teaching the children both RE and gymnastics. On Wednesday afternoons, the children will join our Forest School. When it is not their session, the children will take part in arithmetic and handwriting sessions with Mrs Dalglish. In Year 3 the children will also begin to learn French. French lessons with Mrs Bowman will take place every other Friday.

PE

This year our PE days will be on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Children should **come to school wearing their PE kit** on these days. We will inform you in advance if there are any changes to PE days. An overview of the school PE kit can be found in the uniform section of the school website.

Reading

Your child will continue to bring a reading book home every day to share with you for about 10 minutes. Whilst it does not have to be a long period of reading, frequent reading sessions at home with an adult are key to both a child's success in reading, and other areas of the curriculum. This will be aided by encouraging your child to read with expression, discussing the text with them, including giving opinions on the characters and plot or what might happen next. Please make a comment in your child's reading diary, including the date, page number reached and a comment on their reading. These reading diaries will be checked regularly by either myself or Mrs Lucas. If children need a new book, they will have the chance to choose one at the beginning of the day or another convenient time in the school day.

In school, during guided reading sessions, children of a similar reading ability will share a book as well as reading individually to a teacher or teaching assistant weekly. We will also read independently for around 10 minutes after lunch every day.

Spellings

Children will continue to learn spellings. On Mondays, children will bring home a list of spellings to learn for Friday. These will be based on the sounds or rules they have been learning in class, high frequency words they need to practise, statutory Year 3-4 words, or words that will help in other areas of the curriculum. Please help your child to learn their spellings, ensuring they know their meaning and check that their spelling book is returned to school every Monday to write in their new words.

Home Learning

In Year 3 children will also receive a small piece of English and maths homework. These will be **given on Thursday** to be **returned by the following Tuesday**.

Please help your child with their mental number manipulation which will increase both their confidence and speed. This could include counting forwards or backwards from a given number or practising their multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables. They will need to know these off by heart by the end of the year! We will also be working on these in school. There are lots of games to help practise on the internet (please remind the children to use their Online Safety knowledge when using the internet).

Curriculum

The curriculum for Year 3 will be available shortly on the school website. Additionally, each week I will publish a 'Sneak Peak for the Week' so that you are aware of what we will be covering each week. We will also be holding our Welcome Curriculum meetings in a few weeks where I will be able to talk to you more about the curriculum in Year 3.

Equipment

Children only need a book bag or small rucksack to bring in their belongings, otherwise the cloakroom can become very crowded! They should bring in a **small** pencil case with: **a named writing pencil, rubber, sharpener (with a lid ideally), glue stick, a ruler and a small selection of colouring pencils**. Felt tips and gel pens are not required. Please can we ask that pencil cases are kept small to fit inside your child's tray. They **do not** need large pencil cases, novelty stationary or small toys that can distract them from their learning. Any oversized cases may be put back into bags and sent home. Thank you for your support with this – it is already clear that children are coming to school with the right equipment, ensuring that they are ready to learn.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year, to get the best out of their learning and development. If you have any worries or queries, please do come and see me or send me an e-mail.

Best Wishes

Miss Gemma Ward

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3 Class Teacher