

# Year 3 Newsletter

Week beginning: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see the children looking well-rested and eager to continue their learning in Term 2. The first day back was Art Day in Year 3. We have studied the importance of Stonehenge (located in Wiltshire) as a national monument. We discussed its connection to our history topic and we debated on how it possibly could have been erected during the Neolithic period. There are some interesting theories on this topic. It was great to hear some of the hypothesis proposed by the children! It is obvious that many children are taking a deep interest in the way people lived during the Stone Age period! Children created silhouettes of Stonehenge against bright skylines.

## English

We learnt how to use a new punctuation mark this week – speech marks. Almost all the children recognised these punctuation marks. We learnt the rules we need to follow to use them correctly. The children practised writing dialogue between two people in their books. Please draw your children's attention to the correct use of speech marks when they come across them in their reading books.

We have also started looking at the new genre of text for this term – fairy tales. We have chosen The Tale of Little Red Riding Hood. We revisited the events of the story in the right order and learnt to recite the story using language used particularly in fairy tales. In the following weeks, we will work towards writing our own version of a fairy tale!



**The Tale of Little Red Riding Hood and the Big, Bad Wolf**

## Geography



We have continued and completed learning about rivers in our geography lesson. This week, we explained what we knew about the water cycle in our own words. We also learnt how a river erodes the land that it flows through. We finished the topic by studying some of the major rivers of the UK and the wildlife they support.

## Maths

This week in maths, we revisited what we had learnt last term first. Then, we consolidated our adding and subtracting skills using formal written methods. Children set out their numbers in place value columns and solved the problems. They learnt how to 'carry over' when adding numbers and how to 'exchange' by 'knocking next door' when subtracting.

## RE

Our new RE topic is 'Incarnation'. We learnt the meaning of the word 'incarnation' and the children studied the picture shown here in relation to the topic. They should be able to tell you what the picture represents!

They also answered questions about incarnation and how Jesus was a special man.



## History

We have continued to study how the technology improved and changed the lives of the stone age people. This week, we looked at improvements in dwellings from a simple cave to a modern house.

## Times Tables

By now, I am sure you're all familiar with the format of the times tables test. Please be aware that with 31 children doing 31 different things, there **will** be times when we (or the children) might get it wrong! It really doesn't matter if a times tables is repeated accidentally, when the child should have done the next one, or if we move a child on to the next times table even after they may have made errors. Our final goal is to prepare them for tests in Year 4. With this in mind, as the children move on to three times tables and beyond, the division problems will be optional. The tests in Year 4 are only on multiplication – not on division.

If you have any questions about the new spelling scheme or the times tables, please speak to me. The letter about the new spelling scheme sent home on Thursday is attached at the end of the Newsletter, just in case you haven't seen it yet.

Have an enjoyable weekend!

Mrs Pattanshetti, Mrs Glennon and Mrs Patterson ☺

Here are some pictures from our Art Day.



Dear Parents and Carers,

## Vocabulary Ninja!

We are excited to be introducing a new whole-school system for teaching spelling called Vocabulary Ninja! Each week, a spelling pattern will be introduced to the children in class. A set of words will be sent home for the children to learn to spell, along with a fun activity to help them practise. Additional activities will be carried out in school during the week, so spellings will be reinforced at home and in school, before a spelling test takes place. The system includes



regular revision of common words that the children are expected to be able to spell, so don't worry if some words seem a bit easy for your child. Also, there may seem to be a lot of words to learn, but we hope that by practicing at home and at school, this won't be a problem. As with all new initiatives, we will try things out and adapt as necessary, but we hope to have a whole school of *Spelling Ninjas* very soon!

The children will take their spelling tests on Tuesdays, just like we used to. New spellings will be sent home either on Wednesday or Thursday.

The spelling rules that we will cover this term are as follows.

1. Revision of the alphabetic code - Phonics  No booklet for this rule. Teachers to review alphabetic knowledge with children.	2. Common words from key stage 1 and setting non negotiables	3. Statutory word list and adding prefixes and suffixes to these where appropriate	4. Revision of Suffixes. Revision from Y2, <i>ing, ed, er, est and plurals (-s and -es)</i>	5. Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable	6. The /t/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words	7. Review and assessment of spelling taught this half term.
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Group A will be tested only on some of the words from the word list each week. These words will be ticked, marked or highlighted in some way. Group B will be tested on all the spellings. Group C will continue to learn the spellings given by Mrs Lepavoux. The spelling scheme has been clearly explained to the children.

If you have any questions about it, please feel free to speak to me.

Thank you.

With kind regards,

Mrs T Pattanshetti