

Class information: Class 3

Teachers: Miss Grace Slater and Mrs Samantha Hughes

Number in class: 31

Year 3 children. (14 girls/17 boys)

PE

PE days are Tuesday and Friday for Half term 1 only. These will change to Monday and Friday starting Half term 2. Please wear outdoor PE Kits on these days. **BUT** We will let you know in advance if shorts will be needed (e.g. for gymnastics). On those days, please ensure that the shorts are worn under outdoor PE jogging bottoms or under school skirts. All kits must consist of school regulation clothing and must be named (not just child's initials). In Half Term 1, children will be having Yoga sessions on Tuesday afternoons. **On this day, children may come to school in their outdoor PE kits.**

Uniform

Please check the website for full details and ensure that uniform is fully named (not just child's initials). Please do check these details for information on headbands/bobbles (nothing brightly coloured/fancy) and earrings (discreet studs – no other jewellery allowed).

Start and finish times and morning/afternoon routines

School begins at 8:45am but children may arrive before 8:45 to allow lessons to start promptly. School finishes at 3pm. Please arrive at the field gate, follow the one-way system and wait near the railings outside Class Two and Class One.

Seating/Grouping

We have differentiated seating for Maths, English and Reading. For other subjects, children use their morning-work places (which are based more on friendships). These places are of course subject to change throughout the year.

Rewards/sanctions

We have all written and agreed a Class Agreement (copies in homework books). We use a stepped approach from 1 to 5 (all the school use this system, including lunchtimes). Rewards may be individual (certificate/prize), group (table points leading to a reward from the reward box) or class (extra playtime for achieving class target) rewards. Sanctions include loss of Golden Time or loss of playtime. Sanctions will be used where the class agreement is repeatedly ignored (where the stepped approach results in a red card), or where work is not completed to an expected standard/on time.

Homework

Homework is given out on Friday and should be handed in on the following Wednesday to allow for marking. See below for more detail:

Each week homework will consist of:

Maths homework

This will be linked to the maths taught in the week or an activity that will enable children to practise core skills or problem solving.

OR

English homework

This will consist of either a reading comprehension sheet and/or a grammar and punctuation task linked to the work done in class.

PLUS:

Spellings

Every Friday, the children are given spellings to learn at home. We informally test the children on the following Friday and the completed spelling test sheet will be stuck into their homework book each week, so that you can see how they have done/go over any incorrect words.

The spellings will be based on:

- The words from the national curriculum that a Year 3 child has to know
- Spelling patterns/ rules that have been taught in the week

The best way to learn spellings is to use the 'Look, cover, say, write' method. Also, look for patterns within the words/break the words into syllables.

AND:

Reading:

Your child should be reading at home every day for at least 15 minutes. This should sometimes involve reading aloud to an adult in order to build fluency, speed and expression and you should make time to discuss what your child has read if you do not hear them read. It is also important for your child to hear you read aloud, so you may want to read a page each as part of their daily reading.

AND:

There will also be a mental maths section usually linked to addition/subtraction facts or times tables and matching divisions. Children can do these verbally. Children are also expected to go on TTRockstars for at least 15 minutes a week at home (they use TTRockstars once a week in maths as well).

Sometimes, instead of English and Maths, children will receive a homework project based on our current topic/RE etc. These will usually be set over a number of weeks and there are always helpful website links on the Class 3 pages of the school website to help.

It is a good idea to encourage your child to develop a routine for doing their homework. We have reminded the children that it is important to make sure it is completed to and handed in on time and that it is done to a high standard. Quality not quantity...please make sure your child writes in blue or black pen or pencil. There is a box at the bottom of the homework sheet (which is stuck into homework books each week along with a spelling sheet and any other sheets) for parent comments.

Reading

The children have the opportunity for sustained, silent reading at school (and they have a book kept in school for this purpose), but should still read daily at home (each child has a book to read at home). Please ask your child to put their finished book into the yellow box in school. Any books in that box will be changed on **Tuesday and Thursday**.

In class, children do weekly reading comprehension and/or guided reading lessons and are also read to daily from our class novel.

Handwriting and presentation

The children write in black pen or in pencil. They are expected to use cursive (joined up) handwriting and to take pride in their work by presenting it to the best of their ability. They will be required to copy the work out at playtimes if it is not up to standard. In Year 3 we have daily handwriting sessions where we teach the children how to join.

English

We teach grammar, spelling and punctuation every day through our writings lesson – little and often! We have a 5-minute starter as part of the main spelling lessons, where we use the strategy of breaking down words into syllables to teach them. The children also write every day. The writing is usually based on a text type we are learning (narrative, reports etc) or topic work or science. The children are also given the chance to write for a sustained period of time and are expected to edit and improve their work. The children have a weekly 'Grammar Hammer' test, which lets us know what the children need to work on, and then they are retested the following week.

Maths

Maths is taught every day, either as a standalone lesson, or through science/topic. Standalone lessons include a mental maths session and then a main activity. The children are taught efficient calculation methods and also problem solving skills. They have a Big Maths CLIC/CLIC SAFE/mental maths test on Thursday and a 'Learn Its' test on Friday. This 'Learn Its' test will be sent home to you so that you can see where you can help your child to improve their mental maths skills. Every half term children will have the chance to do their current Diamond Dash test to help improve the children's instant recall of the times tables facts. They also have a dedicated problem solving lesson where they are taught to apply their skills. Children are also taught maths through other subjects (science for example, where they will use statistics and answer maths questions based on their results). All children have a TT Rockstars login. Please encourage your child to use this at home.

Planning: You have already received a copy of the overview of the year plan. This is subject to change. The Class 3 page of the website has a section with useful links to information we will learn about over the course of the year.

Monitoring and Assessment

Each child has an achievement target set for the end of the year for maths, reading and writing. We group children in the core subjects with these targets in mind. Formal assessments happen throughout the year. Informal assessment is ongoing. Reports are issued throughout the year alongside parent meetings so that you can track your child's progress.

Water Bottles

Please make sure your child has a water bottle containing only fresh water in school each day (no juice or flavoured water). The bottles are kept on tables to encourage them to stay hydrated. They can be refilled at school.

The School Website and E-Safety

A useful website which you can access is called 'Think U Know'. This highlights the importance of making sure you are monitoring how children are using the internet. Please be especially mindful of social media usage amongst primary-age children, which we strongly discourage. We do E-Safety work in class and revisit it throughout the year. Please note that as parents you are permitted to put photos taken at school events onto social networking sites only if they contain solely your own child. No other children or staff should be in the photo. As mentioned previously, our class page on the school website has other links to useful websites which children can access by clicking the links. You will also find our long term plans in full on our class page.

Parent Hub and X

Homework and spellings will be uploaded weekly onto parent hub (paper copies will be stuck into homework books). We will also put any important reminders on Parent Hub, so do make sure you are fully signed up and it may be useful to have the notifications switched on. X is used regularly to show photos of what we have been doing in class.

Snacks

Please ensure that snacks consist only of fresh or dried fruit or vegetables.

Lunch

Please provide a packed lunch or choose a school dinner for your child each day using Relish.

Inhalers/Medications

If your child requires an inhaler, please ensure this and a spacer is sent into school. These will be stored safely in the classroom – please ensure that they are in date. Any other medication has to be sent into school via the office.

And finally... Please feel free to use homework books to communicate with us; send a note or phone, or use the school contact email address which is contact@sga.amat.org.uk