



Welcome to Woodpecker class



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of year 3! I hope that your child will settle in quickly and is happy in Woodpecker class. Year 3 is an exciting year with so many interesting and fun things to learn as the children become more independent. They have already shown how well they are coping with the new routines of the junior school. The purpose of this letter is to tell you about the basic class routines, how you can help your child at home and the topics we will cover.

Teaching staff

I will be teaching Woodpecker class each day with the help of Mrs Friend and Mrs Bennett, our Teaching Assistants. Mrs Friend will be working with us on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and Mrs Bennett will be in class on Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday

On alternate Wednesday afternoons, the children will join our Forest School (more information to follow). When it is not their session, children will participate in arithmetic, handwriting and outdoor learning lessons with Mrs Dalglish.

On a Thursday afternoon, Mrs Dalglish will be teaching the children RE. The class will also have a music lesson on a Thursday afternoon, taught by a specialist teacher.

French lessons take place every other Friday.

Sport

PE and Games lessons are on **Mondays and Fridays**, so please could you help your child to ensure that they have their PE kit at school on these days.

Reading

Your child will continue to bring home a reading book every day to share with you for about 20 minutes. If your child needs a new book, they will have the chance to choose one before registration, or at a convenient part of the day. Please remember that frequent reading sessions at home with a parent are not only key to a child's success in reading, but also in many other areas of the curriculum. It is important that you comment in the reading diary, noting the date, page number reached, and a comment on your child's reading or discussions about the text. Shared reading and discussion of the story are very helpful. Please encourage your child to read with expression, and to give opinions about the characters in the story, the plot, and what might happen next. Reading diaries will be checked regularly by myself or a teaching assistant. At school, in our guided reading sessions, children of a similar reading ability share a book and read individually to a teacher or teaching assistant weekly.

We will read silently for around 10 minutes after lunch every day and continue to use Lexia to support the children's reading.

Spellings

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

Maths

Please help your child with their mental manipulation of numbers to increase their confidence and speed. This could include counting forwards and backwards from a given number, or simple addition and subtraction problems. These are great for long car journeys or bath times! Please continue to practise the multiplication and division facts for 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables - the children need to know the tables off by heart. There are lots of games to practise tables on the internet, or by using the Squeebles app. The children can also practise their maths skills on the Sumdog website.

Home Learning

Each Thursday, your child will receive a piece of English and maths homework, to be returned by the following Tuesday. There will also be an independent learning project set in the Autumn and Spring terms: more details will be provided nearer the time.

Curriculum

The curriculum overview is available on our class page on the school website. Children are encouraged to bring in any relevant resources from home related to our learning.

Equipment

The children only need a book bag or a small rucksack to carry their belongings otherwise the cloakroom gets very crowded! Particularly in the current climate, it is vital come to school with the correct equipment daily. They should bring in a **small** pencil case with: a named pencil, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, small selection of colouring pencils and a ruler. It should fit in their tray. They certainly **do not** need large pencil cases, novelty stationery or small toys which distract them from their work. Any oversized cases may be put back into bags and sent home.

Thank you for your support with this – already it is clear children are coming to school with appropriate resources and I would like to maintain this, ensuring every child is ready to learn with the equipment required for each lesson!

I look forward to working with you and your child this year and seeing you at the Curriculum Evening on Wednesday 15th September at 4pm. If you have any worries or queries, please do come and talk to me or send me an e-mail: I find it is always best to nip concerns and issues in the bud.

Best wishes,

Mrs Louise Knock

deputyhead@tatsfield.surrey.sch.uk