



## **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 children this year for what will be an exciting year with so many fascinating and fun things for the children to learn as they 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 Adil and Mrs Lucas.

On Wednesday afternoons, the children will participate in Forest School. When it is not their session, the children will take part in arithmetic, handwriting and outdoor learning sessions with Mrs Dalglish. Mrs Bowman will also be covering my PPA time for a small portion of Friday mornings.

### **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, of course, inform you in advance if there are any changes to PE days. An overview of the school PE kit can be found on the [school website](#). Plain black hoodies should be worn please.

### **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. Please encourage your child to read with expression, and discuss the text with theme, including giving opinions on the character, plot of 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 one of the Year 3 team. 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.

### **Home Learning**

Children will also receive a small piece of spelling and maths homework each week. These will be **given on Thursday** to be **returned by the following Tuesday**.

In Year 3, the children will also be working on their times tables in school. By the end of Year 3 children should know multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables. Please help your child with their mental number manipulation to increase both their confidence and speed. There are lots of games to help practise on the internet.

Each week I will publish a 'Sneak Peak for the Week' so that you are aware of what we will be learning each week.

### **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**

Year 3 (Woodpeckers) Class Teacher  
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