

Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter for Autumn Term 2014

Dear Monkey Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Monkey Class!

Welcome back to the start of a new and what I am certain will be exciting academic year; I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know you properly over the next few weeks.

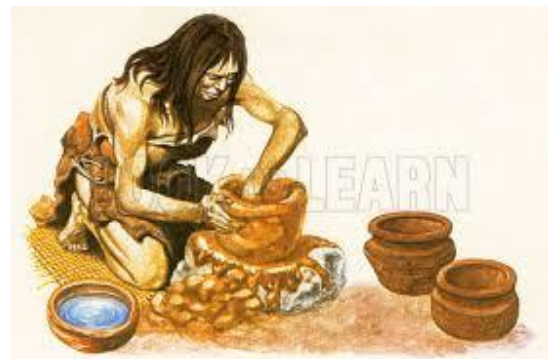
Our topic for this term is Stone Age to Iron Age.

We will be learning about the way life in Britain changed over that period. We will be visiting Kingston Museum to discover finds from our local area from the period and hope to recreate an archaeological dig for the children to experience.

Some web sites which may be of interest to get the children started are:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/ancient-britain.shtml>

<http://timetravellerkids.co.uk/time-travel/stone-age/>



English: During the first half of the term we will be reading *The Tinderbox* by Hans Christian Andersen. Children will be learning how to write a diary from a character's viewpoint. There will be a focus on the use of grammar and punctuation and also the use of descriptive language and drama to bring characters to life. After half term we will be reading *Kindlekrax* by Philip Ridley and we will learn how to write a story with a familiar setting. We will then move on to writing an information text about Crocodiles.

Maths: We will be comparing, ordering, counting and partitioning numbers up to at least 1,000. We will revise the 10, 2, 5, 4 and 3 times tables and we will be working on understanding the calendar and learning to tell the time. After half term our focus will be on finding fractions of numbers, using money to add and subtract, working on measure and learning to divide with remainders. We will also have weekly mental maths tests in order to develop and consolidate the times tables and quick mental maths strategies. It would be helpful if you could encourage your child to practise their times tables each week.

Science: The children will be learning about Rocks and Soils and their different properties. We will be investigating the characteristics and uses of a variety of rocks and comparing different soil types.

History: This term we will be learning about how life in Britain changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

PE/Games: The children will be taught PE by Motive8 on Thursdays this year. Please remember to send them in with full PE kits.

Swimming: Swimming will be on Mondays and will start on Monday 9th of September. Children will need to bring a full swimming kit to school every week: this must include a swimming costume or trunks, towel, swimming hat and goggles.

ART: In art we will be focusing on drawing and mark-making using a variety of media.

French: In French, our topic for the first half term will be greetings and 'all about me'. Year 3 will build conversations by asking and replying to questions such as 'what's your name, how old are you and where do you live?' Across the whole term, Year 3 will also focus on numbers 1-20. After half term our topic will be class room routines and will include key classroom instructions and vocabulary, the alphabet and colours which link into our end of term Christmas activities.

Music: This term we will be 'Painting with Sound'. This unit develops children's ability to create, perform and analyse expressive compositions and extend their sound vocabulary.

RE: In RE in Year 3 we make a comparative study of Christianity and Islam. This term we will be learning about the life of Muhammad and why he is a special person for Muslims.

PSHE: As the term starts us off in new classes we will be focusing on new beginnings and how to make the most of our year.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE): Each half term, the children will be completing one lesson. This term we will begin to look at self-esteem and areas for improvement and challenging gender stereotypes.

Options: Options will now take place on **Fridays from 2-3pm**. All children have chosen activities that they would like to do from a selected list. This year the choices are: PE, Forest schools, Kew's News, drama and arts and crafts. Children who have a PE or Forest School option will need suitable clothing.

Home learning: Home learning for reading, spellings and maths is handed out every Thursday and must be given in every Tuesday. The children have reading record books and these should be completed by you or your child on a daily basis and must be handed in every Tuesday as part of the home learning. Please ensure your child reads for at least 10 minutes every day.

Creative Home Learning will be given out at the beginning of the half term – children can choose to complete the tasks set or do something which of their own choice. Each week their Creative Home Learning should be brought into school on Tuesday along with their Home Learning book.

Request: We would like to display some words about the topic in a variety of languages so, if anyone could translate our topic vocabulary, please come and see me.

Question Time: I look forward to working with you this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and have a chat. Alternatively you can make an appointment to meet me straight after on Tuesdays.

Dates for the diary:

19 th September	-	PTA Meeting – 9.00 – 10.00am (at school)
19 th September	-	Jeans for Genes Day
25 th September	-	Library visit
2 nd October	-	PTA AGM – 19.00 – 21.00 (at school)
16 th October	-	PTA Social – 19.00 – 22.00 (at school)
20 th – 24 th October	-	Art Week
24 th October	-	Last day of half term (normal time)
Half Term	-	27th – 31st October
3 rd November	-	Inset Day
4 th November	-	Children back to school
18 th & 20 th November	-	Parents consultations
20 th November	-	Library visit
5 th December	-	Kew Sparkle (Kew village)
11 th December	-	Key Stage 2 – Richmond Theatre (more information to follow)
12 th December	-	PTA Christmas Fair (school hall)
18 th December	-	Christmas Lunch
19 th December	-	Last day of term (normal time)

Jane.

