

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL



WELCOME

We first want to say a huge welcome to all of our year 3 children and families. We have been extremely impressed with how quickly your children have settled into life here at CJS and we are very excited for the year ahead. We are certain the children will thoroughly enjoy all the opportunities available.

ENGLISH

We are launching our English by exploring the book *'The Wild Way Home'* in guided reading in keeping with our *Prehistoric Britain* topic. Following on from this, we will be read all about the antics of *'The Stone Age Boy'* by Julia Donaldson where the children will be creating their own stone age characters and writing their own story. We will also look at a poetry unit where the children will be learning the form of a Haiku and writing their own poems all about the Stone Age.

MATHEMATICS

In Maths, we will concentrate on ensuring that the children have secure number skills and can choose and apply appropriate methods in problem solving. As a school, we follow the Maths No Problem curriculum which builds children's knowledge using concrete resources, pictorial representations and abstract concepts. Real life maths will continue to be central to our teaching and learning so we will always encourage the children to apply their maths at home, e.g. telling the time, using money, measuring amounts for baking, etc.

SCIENCE

In Science, we will be encouraging children to answer questions such as, "What is light?" and "Where does darkness come from?" as part of our 'Light the Night' project. During the second half term, we will be exploring questions such as, "What is a fossil?", "Where do they come from?" and "What lies beneath our feet?" as part of our *Raging Rocks* project.

HISTORY

This year sees us embark on a unit tracking the progress from Stone Age to Iron Age. This topic will also be the introduction to our first school trip of the year to the Cranborne Ancient Technology Centre!

GEOGRAPHY

In the first half of this term, we will be studying villages, towns and cities in Geography. This includes exploring our local area!

FRENCH

A specialist teacher from Twynham School will be teaching the children French every week. The children will be introduced to the language in short bursts to help begin to develop their general conversation skills. They will also receive a block of lessons focussing on conversational French each term.

PSHE

In PSHE we start the year with a unit called 'Being in my World' which covers facing new challenges, our rights and responsibilities to ourselves and others and how the choices we make have consequences. After half term we will work on 'Celebrating differences' covering dealing with conflict and giving and receiving compliments.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will be focusing on Hinduism and the Diwali festival. We will follow this with a study of Christianity and the celebration of Christmas.

MUSIC

This term we will be exploring rhythm patterns using a rhythm square. Children will be using body percussion and untuned percussion instruments to perform and compose their own rhythms recording them in a rhythm square. We will then be composing melodies using the pentatonic scale.

COMPUTING

We will be using computers to focus on text and graphics. We also aim to develop children's keyboard skills using Microsoft Word and to teach them how to stay safe whilst using the internet.

ART AND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This term in art we will begin by looking at the amazing artist, Yayoi Kusama and using her work as inspiration to produce our own artwork. During the second part of the term we will be creating exciting pop-up cards as part of our DT project looking at levers and linkages.

PE AND GAMES

Indoor PE lessons will take place on Tuesday for 3CM and 3SC, Wednesday for 3LY and Thursday for 3GD, These lessons will be taught by specialist Gymnastics and dance teachers.

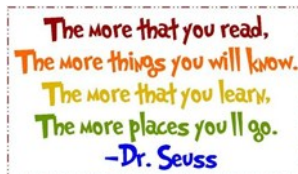
Outdoor PE will be on Friday for all year 3 classes. We will be learning the skills and techniques needed for football, netball, tag rugby and hockey. As always, teamwork, communication and resilience will be a key focus in all our PE lessons. We will also be travelling to Two Riversmeet to take part in our statutory swimming lessons.

HOME LEARNING

We first want to thank you in advance for supporting your children's learning at home. It really does make such a difference.

Reading

We will be working very hard over the next couple of weeks to assess your children's reading ability to ensure that they receive the right reading program to support them. All the children will be coming home with a book that they have chosen from the library and some children will also come home with a colour banded book. We ask that the children read to you at least 4 times a week. We do not have reading records as soon the children will have access to Reading Plus or Reading Eggs (look out for passwords!) These programs track the children's reading progress and will also aid the teachers in providing any support or intervention the children might need. We will be sending more information about our expectations for home learning on these programs soon.



Maths

In Year 2 your children would have covered their 2, 5 and 10 multiplication and division facts. We will spend the first half of this term recapping these. We will then begin to learn multiplication and division facts for the 3s, 4s and 8s. Your children will be given a login to 'Times Table Rock Stars'. We recommend they play this 2 or 3 times a week for 5-10 mins.

We will also be giving out passwords to Doodle Maths - Little and often is best with Doodle, and therefore we would encourage children to use the platform 3 or 4 times a week, asking them to remain in the green zone.

Spellings

Spellings and Phonics will be taught regularly at school. We will spend the first couple of weeks assessing the children's knowledge of Year 2 spellings. From there, we will send them home with a list of spellings each Friday, they will then be tested on these words the following Friday.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's education or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher. Our priority is for your children to be happy, safe and successful in our care. Thank you again for all your support and co-operation this week.

Mr McClafferty
Year Leader
3CM

Miss Chamberlain
3SC

Miss Dunk
3GD

Mrs Landrebe and Mrs Yeatman
3LY