

Year 3 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

Set in Stone



This document aims to give you information on the curriculum we will be covering during the Autumn term.

English

As readers, they will continue to use and apply phonics to support fluent reading, with an increasing emphasis on reading for meaning.

In guided reading lessons, they will be exposed to a wide range of texts, including fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books. Where possible, they will make links to topics across the curriculum.
Reading for Pleasure

This term, they will enjoy a rich variety of genres to develop a love of reading and broaden their understanding of different texts. They will listen to:

- ✓ Fairy Tale/Traditional Tale – Little Red Riding Hood
- ✓ Historical Fiction – Boy of the Painted Cave, Ugg, and Stone Age Boy
- ✓ Poetry – A Poem for Every Day of the Year by Frann Preston-Gannon
- ✓ Non-fiction/Reference Books – The Stone Age, Bronze Age & Iron Age, Rocks & Soils, and texts about Christianity

Through these texts, they will build comprehension skills, expand vocabulary and develop confidence as independent readers.

As writers this term, they will explore a range of exciting texts and develop their writing skills through creative and purposeful activities. We begin with a transition unit focussing on the fairy tale Little Red Riding Hood. They will learn to describe settings and then innovate the story by creating an alternative ending. Finally, they will invent their own fairy tale with a twist!

Next, we move on to instruction writing with How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth. They will innovate by writing instructions for washing a prehistoric beast and invent their own linked to science, such as How to Make a Fossil.

In poetry, they will create calligrams inspired by rocks and the Stone Age, combining words and art to express meaning.

Our narrative unit features The Stone Age Boy, a journey tale. The focus will be on description and they will innovate by substituting elements before inventing a new story set in the Iron Age, linking to history.

Finally, they will write a non-chronological report about rocks, starting with igneous rocks, then innovating with sedimentary rocks and inventing a report on changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

Maths

Maths Fluency – Autumn Term

This term, they will be building strong foundations in number sense to support confidence and accuracy in maths. They will focus on understanding three-digit numbers, including hundreds, tens, and ones and learn how to compare and order numbers up to 1000.

They will practise finding 10 or 100 more or less and represent numbers using different models, such as Base 10 blocks and bead strings, to make learning visual and hands-on. They will also explore number lines up to 1000, helping them see patterns and relationships between numbers.

Alongside this, they will develop mental strategies for addition and subtraction within 100, including bridging through 100, which prepares them for column addition and subtraction later in the term. These activities help children build fluency, flexibility, and confidence with numbers, laying the groundwork for more complex problem-solving as the year progresses.

During maths lessons, they will be strengthening their number skills and applying them to real-life contexts. They will:

- ✓ Review strategies for adding and subtracting across 10, building confidence with mental maths.
- ✓ Secure place value to 100 and use this understanding to solve addition and subtraction problems.
- ✓ Bridge 100 by counting on and back in tens and adding or subtracting multiples of 10.
- ✓ Begin measuring length and recording results in tables, linking maths to practical activities.
- ✓ Represent three-digit numbers, compare them and position them accurately on number lines.
- ✓ Explore measures, including mass and capacity, through hands-on investigations.

These skills help children develop fluency and flexibility with numbers while connecting maths to everyday life.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – History & Geography

As historians, they will explore life in Britain before written records and learn how historians uncover the secrets of prehistory. They will journey through the main periods of the Stone Age, right through to the Iron Age, discovering how people lived, hunted and built communities.

Pupils will investigate how the beginnings of civilisation and the development of agriculture transformed life, leading to the construction of monuments such as stone circles. They will also learn how the discovery of metals like bronze and iron revolutionised tools, trade and warfare - and how these changes shaped society. Finally, they will explore the impressive defensive earthworks that still exist today—reminders of Britain's prehistoric past that we can visit and walk on.

As geographers, they will zoom in on the United Kingdom. In this unit, they will explore the key geographical characteristics of the United Kingdom. They will learn about the four countries that make up the UK and the regions within England.

They will investigate both human and physical features, including types of settlements, major topographical landmarks and how land use has changed over time. Using maps and atlases, they will study the UK and their local area, developing essential skills such as using a compass, four-figure grid references, map keys and symbols.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Science

As scientists, they will learn about rocks, comparing and grouping different types based on appearance and physical properties. They will conduct a fair practical enquiry, classify and group rocks and record their findings in tables.

They will describe how fossils are formed and recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter. Later in the term, they will study forces and magnets, comparing how objects move on different surfaces. They will observe how some forces require contact, while magnetic forces can act at a distance. Through experiments, they will explore how magnets attract or repel and identify magnetic materials. They will describe magnets as having two poles and predict whether magnets will attract or repel based on pole orientation.

Computing

As computer experts this term, they will develop their understanding of how computers work and learn practical digital skills.

In Computer Systems and Networks – Connecting Computers, they will discover that digital devices have inputs, processes and outputs - and learn how these devices can be connected to form networks. This helps children understand the technology they use every day and how information flows between devices.

They will also progress their Office Skills, focussing on presentation software such as PowerPoint and Google Slides. They will learn key vocabulary like .ppt, file extension, insert, transition and aspect ratio - and practise creating and editing slides to present information clearly and creatively.

A key concept this term is 'Sequencing', which underpins both computing and digital presentation skills, helping children organise ideas logically.

Creative Development

As artists, they will use sketchbooks regularly to record ideas, experiment with techniques and reflect on their creative process. They will study the work of Caitlin Foster, recreating her artistic style and exploring tone, pattern, texture, line and shape. They will draw accurately from observation using a range of media including pen, charcoal and ink.

They will explore monoprinting techniques, printing fossil designs using varied mark-making methods. To complement their History learning, they will recreate cave paintings using charcoal as their medium.

Textiles: They will practise sewing and decorative techniques to design and make a Christmas decoration using felt and a straight stitch to create the pattern.

As musicians this term, they will explore music in creative and exciting ways, combining technology with traditional skills. In Music Technology, they will use Soundtrap for Education to compose their own rap. They will learn about the history of rap music and the key components that make it unique. Using the beatmaker feature, they will create and layer beats to add texture and depth, write patterns to mark verses and breaks and finally record their own rap vocals over the backing track they composed.

In Painting Pictures with Sound, they will discover the dimensions of music and how these can be varied to create mood and atmosphere. They will explore instruments from around the world, learn about timbre and create simple accompaniments for songs such as We're Going Round the World. They will also compose music inspired by stories and settings, organise layers of sound to create interesting textures and represent these using creative notations like storyboards and composition wheels.

Alongside these activities, they will learn songs for Harvest and Christmas, developing their performance skills and confidence.

Physical Development (PE)

This term they will be looking at Invasion Games and Net/Wall games. This will involve learning the skills and tactics used in these games and experiencing small sided and simplified versions of these games. The focus will be on teamwork and fair play as well as improving skills of travel, sending, receiving, dodging, attacking and defending. They will have the opportunity to develop the skills they have previously learnt and put them into practice in match situations. They will also be looking into game rules and competitions.

RE & PSHE

In RE, they will explore the question: "What do Christians believe about God and Incarnation?" They will study how Christians describe God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They will learn about two types of baptism and the miracles of Jesus. They will be encouraged to ask questions and participate in thoughtful discussions.

In PSHE, they will explore the school values of resilience and friendship. They will discuss what it means to belong to a community and how to be global citizens.

Later in the term, they will focus on three key themes that help children understand and develop healthy relationships:

- ✓ Families and People Who Care for Us – exploring the different types of families and the importance of love, care and support.
- ✓ Respectful and Kind Relationships – learning how to treat others with kindness and respect in all situations.
- ✓ Caring Friendships – understanding what makes a good friend and how to build strong, positive friendships.
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These lessons help children develop empathy, respect and the social skills they need to thrive both in and out of school.

Online Safety

This term, they will learn how to stay safe and make positive choices online. Our focus will be on two key themes:

- ✓ Privacy and Security – understanding why it's important to keep personal information private, how to create strong passwords and ways to protect themselves when using digital devices.
- ✓ Online Bullying – recognising what online bullying looks like, how it can affect others and what to do if they or someone they know experiences it.

These lessons help children build confidence and responsibility when using technology, ensuring they know how to stay safe and treat others with respect online.

French

In French the emphasis is on speaking and listening as we continue to explore new language structures and sounds. We will introduce more written tasks as we focus on similarities and differences between English and French. We will build on prior knowledge to learn French phonics and sounds, consider masculine and feminine nouns.

We will find out about starting school in France and, later in the term, we will build on prior knowledge to learn about Halloween and the Jour du Souvenir (Remembrance Day), in France. Towards the end of term, we will focus on the traditions connected to St. Nicolas and Noël.

Homework

They will receive weekly spellings, SPaG, and maths homework, alongside a half-termly topic homework menu consisting of varied activities. These will include tasks linked to design and technology, art, maths, science, English, computing, online safety and school values. They are expected to complete at least two tasks, allowing them to engage with the topic creatively and showcase different talents.

If your child is proud of their work, they are welcome to bring it in for show and tell or to contribute to the class topic display.

It is essential that your child reads regularly. This doesn't always have to be their school reading book – reading a variety of fiction, non-fiction & poetry is also beneficial. Please ensure your child's reading record is completed and brought into school daily.