



Spring 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to provide you with information about our new Spring Term. We certainly have a busy term ahead, with plenty to add to our 'glittering curriculum'. This term, we will be welcoming several local schools and arts institutions to collaborate with us in our learning. We will be working with The London College of Communication on a sculpture project they have devised and funded around plastics pollution. This will be in collaboration with the Year 3's at Charlotte Sharman Primary School in Southwark. The schools will be communicating with each other throughout the project to share ideas and learning. Student mentors from Alleyn's Secondary School will be working with both Taffeta and Satin classes, having devised workshop in Art and Drama. Also, as a launch school of the Tate Steve McQueen Year 3 Portrait Project, we have been awarded a workshop on identity, to be delivered by the Tate at The Belham.

We value your support with our topics and learning. Do keep in touch via our Class Dojo, where we may also shout out for any help with time or resources.

We are starting the term, warming our cold January, with some poems from the Caribbean, before moving into our over-arching topic of The Ancient Greeks.

Literacy

We start the term with a poetry unit, using the text 'Hot Like Fire' by Valerie Bloom. We will use the poems to inspire our writing, drawing and own poetry creations. We then launch into the exciting dramas of 'The Heroes of Troy'. This time we use an animation and radio version of the tale, told by King Menelaus' bodyguard, of Paris and Helen's betrayal, resulting in the 10 year war. What would it have been like to hide in that wooden horse as it was hauled through the gates of Troy? We will explore this, with plenty of role-play and writing in role to inspire our narratives and reports. We are lucky enough to be going to the Unicorn Theatre to watch their adaptation of the Greek myth, 'Icarus'. This will give us plenty to work with, when creating our own versions of the myth and writing play scripts. We are looking forward to transforming our giant puppets into Greek Gods to inspire our learning!

Supporting your child's learning

Encourage your children with a love of writing. Create writing opportunities by creating lists, making a decorative note book or writing a short story for a sibling or friend. We often find that the children enjoy planning and writing together. Create a story together at bedtime that may continue in instalments over the week and challenge your child to adapt it into a comic strip or short story.

Reading and Homework

Children will now all be reading either a scheme book (based on their most recent reading assessments) or a free reader that will be monitored jointly by school staff and parents—please let us know if you have concerns about your child's book choice.

Children should be reading at home for approximately **20 minutes per night**, this should be recorded in their reading records. Reading records will be monitored weekly by teaching staff to ensure that children are reading a range of quality texts. Please ensure that your child has their reading book and record with them in school **every day**. Children may choose a book from our collection or one from home.

Depending on their level of need, children will read with a member of school staff daily, twice weekly or bi-weekly. Reading activities take place as part of most lessons especially literacy focused ones.

Supporting your child's learning

Please use these ideas to support your child when reading their books with you at home.

- Encourage your child to discuss what they have read and seen in books.
- Ask questions about what has happened/how the character may feel.
- Discuss with your child the author's choice of words and description.

As well as daily reading at home, we will also be continuing with Mathletics, where children can work towards bronze, silver and gold certificates, supporting their class Maths learning. Please use Mathletics to consolidate our previous learning on place value, addition and subtraction as well as our new topics for the Spring Term.

Maths

In Maths, we will be consolidating our learning on place value, addition and subtraction. We will be using a range of concrete, pictorial and abstract formal written methods to solve multiplication and division questions. We will also be developing our problem solving skills, applying our number knowledge to word problems and puzzles. We will also be looking at measure this term: time and measurements, as well statistics.

Last term we were looking at patterns and different methods of solving times tables questions. We focused on 3, 4, 5, and 10 times table. This term, we will think about doubling our 2x table to find our 4x, doubling our 3x to find our 6x table, and looking at patterns in the 9 and 11x tables.

Supporting your child's mathematical learning at home:

- Look for and discuss patterns and similarities in times tables
- Seek opportunities to use applied mathematics: converting recipe ingredients, calculating change in shops or calculating journey times.

Physical Development & Outside Learning

It is important that children have their school PE kit (including trainers) in school (in a draw-string bag) with them each week—we suggest that they bring it in on Monday and take it home on Friday as often PE lessons may be moved to accommodate activities.

This term we will be developing our gymnastics skills, dance and football.

Trips

-24th January Greek Day – Children to come dressed in Greek costume for a range of Greek activities, feast and entertainment.

-1st March Unicorn Theatre - Icarus

-14th March Tate Yare 3 Steve McQueen Project - Identity

If you are able to help with trips please contact us. We always welcome your support.

Reminders

- Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school every day.
- Please ensure that all items of clothing, including PE Kits, are **clearly labelled** with your child's name.
- Please ensure your child has their hair tied back and that they are not wearing jewellery (beyond simple stud earrings-- if required).
- Please ensure that your child has a jumper and waterproof jacket in school.

Kind regards,

The Year 3 Team

Kate Gorely (Satin Class Teacher)

Emily Downing (Taffeta Class Teacher)

Agnieszka Rotuska-Seksaf, Luciana Ribaudó (Support Staff)