3A Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2 2020

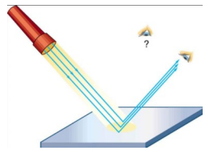
St James' Blackburn
CE Primary School

Welcome to Year 3!
I hope you have had a restful half term break. If you have any concerns please feel free to approach me after school or book a formal meeting through the office to meet for a greater length of time.

Don't forget: PE will take place on Tuesdays. Please ensure your child is coming into school with their PE kit on. Please remove earrings before coming to school. Please ensure your child is reading every night. Remember to also discuss your book and what you have learnt at school with adults at home to help reinforce that learning. Spellings and Arithmetic skills will be tested every Friday and we will be placing a big focus on fast recall of times tables.

History
In History we will continue to look at the achievements of the Early Civilisations. We have compared the Ancient Sumerians and the Indus Valley inventions. This term, we will focus on the inventions of the Ancient Egyptians, the Minoan civilisations and the Shang Dynasty.

Science
Our topic this term is Light, Reflections and Shadows. We will investigate how light is reflected from surfaces and recognise why we need light to see things. We will recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and we will look at ways that we can protect our eyes. We will investigate how shadows are formed and find patterns in the way that the sizes of shadows change.



English
In English we will be reading the story 'Georges Marvellous Medicine' and discussing how Roald Dahl uses creative language to make his books appealing to readers. We will answer questions about the story and look more closely at the characters and setting. The children will then write their own character descriptions. We will also look at the non-fiction text 'Plastic Sucks' and use this to write persuasion letters. Finally, we will look at 'My Wonderful Wizard Potion' poem and begin to write our own poems with a structure. We will continue to have weekly grammar lessons with a focus on verbs, prepositions and spellings.

Maths
This half term we will be focusing on Multiplication and Division. We will cover a range of fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions. Children must complete their weekly maths homework to embed their mathematical skills. Children have been provided with logins to Times Table Rockstars, which is a great tool which will help to improve their times table facts. Children will undergo a Times Table test next year which all Year 4's will take nationally, therefore it is vital that children are practising their times tables on a daily basis.

Geography
In Geography we will be naming and locating counties and cities of the United Kingdom. We will be using a range of maps and globes. We will describe and understand the key aspects of human and physical Geography within our local area. Last half-term, we focused on Blackburn and Preston. This term we will be focussing on Manchester and Rome.

R.E.
In R.E. this half-term we will be learning about Christmas and focusing on the idea that God is always with us.

D.T.
In DT, following on from our Science Topic, children will be designing their very own healthy, nutritious sandwiches. We have identified different food groups and we will be moving onto designing and evaluating healthy sandwiches.

Computing
This half term, children will begin to publish their work to a wider audience using podcasting tools. Computing will be embedded across the whole curriculum with children using laptops and IPads to support their learning.

P.S.H.E.
Our topic in PSHE this term is 'Healthy Lifestyles.' We will be focussing on Mental Wellbeing, Internet Safety, Physical Health and Fitness, Healthy Eating, Drugs and Alcohol and Health.

P.E.
Our topic this term in PE is dance. We will be linking our dance to our science topic of light and shadows. By the end of the term, we will create and perform our very own dance.

Art
In Art we will be investigating famous Roman frescos. We have looked at different fresco styles and by the end of the term we will be creating our very own mini Fresco tile.

Music
Our focus will be Glockenspiel songs. We will be learning basic instrumental skills by playing tunes in various styles.

French
In French we will be learning Basic Nouns and Seasonal Greetings. We will listen to French songs to help us with our French vocabulary and pronunciation.