



# Class 3 Newsletter

## Spring Term 2026

Happy January, families! I hope you had a relaxing, restful and peaceful time over Christmas and New Year. Mrs Derbyshire and I are incredibly humbled by the cards, well wishes and gifts received just before we broke up and would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your kindness. The 'Spring' term is already in full swing; the children have returned with fantastic attitudes, work ethic and are already making great progress which I'm excited to see continue.

<b>Main Focus for Project i.e. subject &amp; programme of study:</b>	Explore: Geography South America, Climate Change and Fair Trade
<b>Enquiry Question:</b>	How might we live in the future?
<b>Concepts:</b>	Rights, common good, discrimination
<b>Connections i.e. links to other subjects:</b>	<p><b>Geography:</b> The impact of our choices on the climate and other people around the globe. The rights for Fair Trade to working farmers.</p> <p><b>English:</b> Based on the novel "The Firework Maker's Daughter" studying gender equality.</p> <p><b>RE:</b> How our relationships and actions towards others can affect those around us.</p> <p><b>PSHE:</b> Focusing on Feelings and Emotions including Jealousy investigating how we should treat other people.</p>

### Geography:

In Geography this term our main focus will be on South America and the Amazon Rainforest. We will be learning more about climate zones, using maps and atlases, identifying various time zones and comparing and contrasting Brazil with our own country and culture. We will also focus on the Amazon Rainforest and the threats and issues facing it. We will investigate what Fair Trade is and its importance to developing countries. We will also discuss the climate crisis and how this affects farmers and workers overseas. Children will begin to understand how their choices can impact both the people around the world and the planet that we live on.

### English:

In terms of the concepts, 'Right in English', we will be studying the book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman (author of "The Dark Materials") which looks at a Fantasy Story with a quest and by the end of the unit, the children should be able to write a Fantasy Story with a quest. We will start the topic with some poetry on similes and metaphors to enhance the children's vocabulary.

Each day I will be doing Guided Reading with groups and Mrs Derbyshire will be checking the home readers. Also, for three days a week, the children will focus heavily on spelling rules. I have noticed in the previous term that this is making an impact on their general spelling in class work.

### Maths:

This term, both year groups will complete our Multiplication and Division units. Year 3 children will look at Money, Statistics, Length and Perimeter and then begin to explore Fractions. Year 4 children, we will be covering Area, Length and Perimeter, Fractions and Decimals. We continue to complete our 'Tough Tens'

every day, keeping the key elements of learning from throughout the year at the forefront of our minds. We try to dedicate some iPad time on Fridays to TT Rockstars, as well as regular times tables practice, but it would be a huge help if you could ensure that your child is also practising at home on a regular basis. This term we will begin to undertake a weekly times table quiz every Friday, which the children will be given as homework to practice.

### **Religious Education:**

This term's topic is called 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. It focuses on St Matthew's Gospel talking about the Messiah and how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies from the ancient Jewish texts. The children will learn aspects of the Mass like The Nicene and Apostles Creed and why we say it. The children will study Reconciliation and why it is important to reconcile and forgive. This is also in preparation for the Year 4's Sacrament of Reconciliation later this year.

### **PSHE:**

PSHE is a discussion-based subject that we encourage children to contribute to in as much as they feel comfortable to do so. It contributes to positive physical and psychosocial wellbeing and encourages children to become critical thinkers and empathetic citizens, as well as teaching them practicalities about safety and responsibility. This term we will be looking at 'Feelings and Emotions plus Jealousy'. We will also be completing our RSE unit using Journey in Love.

### **Science and DT:**

In Science we are learning about Properties and Changes of Materials. We will be conducting lots of practical experiments, which allows the children to take a hands-on approach. We will explore dissolving, finding out about different ways to separate mixtures of materials, investigating thermal conductors and insulators and learning about irreversible changes. We will use our knowledge to create structures where the children look at ways of reinforcing them.

### **French:**

The children will focus on the core skills daily, including the days of the week, months, numbers and weather. Plus, they will learn how to discuss parts of the body like the ears, eyes nose etc.

### **Computing:**

This will focus on touch typing skills, including how to write an email. Also, the children will learn about databases.

### **PE:**

Up until the February half-term, the Year 3 children will continue to attend swimming lessons at Brinscall Baths on Thursday afternoons, and the Year 4 children continue to learn the invaluable skills of team work through gymnastics and ball skills. After the half-term, we will come together for our regular weekly PE lessons.

### **Homework:**

This term, we will continue using the CGP books for homework. Furthermore, I would like the children to really focus on their times tables facts and reading skills. If you are able to utilise the Reading Plus and TT Rockstars apps at home, please allow the children to access these to help with their learning. I am incredibly proud of the children's progress in reading so far this year. Thank you so much for your support in this area! As I have said before, the fundamental skills of reading really do underpin every other area of the curriculum and I have seen so many of the children growing in confidence and skill.

As always, if you need any assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes, Mrs Deacon