



11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to share some of the things that we will be learning in **Class Eider** over the course of the Autumn Term, as well as some information that would normally have been shared in the Welcome to Year 3 meeting at the end of the previous term.

General Information

We are currently trying to keep the movement of belongings between home and school to a minimum. We are therefore asking that your child only brings the essential items into school in their bookbag each day: their new Key Stage 2 Reading Journal, their reading book, fruit or vegetables as a snack for breaktime, a water bottle and a packed lunch if you wish. If your child gained an ink pen licence last year, please can they leave their pen inside their named pen pots in school. If your child has not yet gained their ink pen licence, they will still have the opportunity to do so this year by using careful and legible joined writing in class.

Sometimes I may share additional resources and information on Google Classroom, especially where we have been restricted to what we can do in school at the present time. I will let the children know when I have done this, but please keep an eye out once a week just in case.

English

We have started the term by looking at stories with familiar settings, such as school, home, the park and the supermarket. While reading a selection of short stories together, the children will have the opportunity to practise features of writing they have previously been taught, before writing their own stories with familiar settings. We will then be moving on to non-chronological reports, which will give the children the chance to share what they have already learnt in their topic work.

After half term, we will be writing newspaper articles about an important battle that happened in Essex in Viking times. We will then move away from non-fiction to use language play in poetry writing, before ending the term by reading and writing Viking myths.

Every child will have the chance to take part in our Let's Present sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. You have hopefully received a letter with your child's presentation date and this term's topic.

As in the infants, your child will have a weekly spelling test, with the first set of spellings being sent out next week. Each week we will explore a specific spelling objective. Your child will bring home a list of spellings, to be learnt ready for a test the following week. Your child will also be asked to pick 5 additional 'own words' to learn, which will be words they have spelt incorrectly previously. I will also provide words for the children to learn if they are not sure which words to choose. Our spelling tests this term will take place on **Tuesdays**. Some of our handwriting sessions will also be linked to the weekly spellings. There is likely to be some movement between spelling groups this year while your child's learning needs are being constantly identified, so please do not worry if that happens.

We have also been going over the first 100 High Frequency Words in our English lessons, and will soon be moving on to the Year 2 Common Exception Words. If your child is not yet secure in these, they will be asked to learn these in addition to their weekly spellings. If your child is ready, they will move onto the first 40 words from our Year 3 Termly Spelling list. Children are tested in these at least twice a term, and hope to achieve a 'pass' of 36 or more in order to move onto the next set of 40 in the spring term.

Your child has been given a Reading Journal and has been shown how to use it to share their reading journey, with lots of ideas and examples at the front and back. Reading journals are checked weekly, and children who read at least 3 times a week at home are awarded a house point. I would like to ask you to encourage your child to record when they read in their reading journals, as only entries written in full will be counted. If an adult hears a child read, I would also love a little note from them to see how they have got on.



As well as a Reading Journal, your child has been given a school reading book. Some children may be reading books from the infants' scheme, while others may have been given books from Emerald level, the first in the Key Stage 2 reading award. Every child's reading journey will be different, and will be able to progress at their own pace.

Once your child had started the Key Stage 2 reading award scheme, they will be asked to use their Reading Journals in a regular and varied way in order to progress. The children will also need to read a variety of genres, keeping track of them using the genre wall at the front and book list at the back of their Reading Journal. More information on how to move onto the next level will be given later in the term.

As books need to be quarantined before being returned to shelves, and books can only be chosen with clean hands, children will only be able to change their books when given the chance by an adult. We are aiming for children to have the opportunity to change their school reading book at least three days a week.

Mathematics

Danbury Park uses the principles of the White Rose Hub scheme of work, which involves the children spending longer periods of time on each area of the curriculum to help enable mathematical mastery. A lot of time will also be spent consolidating work from Year 2, in order to make sure the children have a solid foundation to build on. We have begun by looking at place value, where the children will be expected by the end of the unit to be familiar with and able to manipulate numbers up to 1000. We will then be moving onto addition, subtraction, multiplication and division later in the term, where your child will focus on both mental calculations and (possibly new) written methods. For each area, we will also be looking at problem solving during our daily sessions.

Your child will also have a Four Calculations (4 Calcs) session twice a week. This is an activity done in Key Stage 2 to allow the children to continue to practise their written calculation methods, even if that is not the area of maths being focused on that week in normal lesson time.

You can support your child's learning by helping them to practise their multiplication tables. The expectation is that by the end of Year 3, children should be able to recall multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 multiplication tables. Your child will be tested on their knowledge at the same time as their spelling test on a Tuesday. The first half term, your child will be tested on the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, before we move onto the 4 multiplication tables after half term. Your child will also be set tasks on Mathematics at least once a month to consolidate work we have recently covered in class as soon as it has been set up for the new academic year.

Science

We will be looking at 'Light' as our first unit of work, where we will be looking at the importance of light in order to see, and what a light source is. The children will get the chance to use torches to see how shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object, and how the size and shape of shadow can change.

We will then move on to 'Forces and Magnets', which will involve a lot of careful observation to see how magnets can attract or repel each other, and how they can attract some materials and not others.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'The Vikings: Raiders, Traders or Invaders?'. We are trying to find out which of those terms best suits the Vikings, or whether another historical term might be more appropriate. We have already started to look at when the Vikings lived, and about their voyages across the seas. We will move onto what life was like for the Vikings, and how they got on with the Anglo-Saxons also living in England at the time.

We will be learning about the Battle of Maldon between Vikings and the local Anglo-Saxons, the battle site of which we would usually go and visit after half term. As we will not be able to make this visit this year, I will send information later in the term about where exactly this is and what we would do on the trip if you wish to visit yourselves as a family.

To finish our topic, we will learn about the end of Viking and Anglo-Saxon rule in England and how William the Conqueror became King William I at the Battle of Hastings.



Computing

We have started the term by recapping the importance of online safety to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to help them stay safe when using communication technologies. This term. We will be using a mixture of 'unplugged' and 'plugged' lessons to teach this subject. During the 'unplugged' sessions, we will be focusing on how computers work and how they will only do follow the exact instructions you give them. When we do go onto the laptops, we will be using them to enhance our topic work by researching about the Vikings and presenting our findings.

Religious Education

Our lessons this term will cover some elements of two religions: Christianity and Hinduism. We have started by looking at Hinduism. Once we have recapped some of the key beliefs, we will be finding out about some of the gods and goddesses and the stories and festivals linked to them. After half term, we will then be looking at the start of Jesus' ministry, including how he chose his disciples. It also gives us the chance to learn about some Christian stories, including the Christmas story.

Art and Design

During our art and design sessions, we will be using use sketchbooks to look carefully at the effect on light and dark on objects, and how to show that by sketching. The children will also get the chance to sketch Viking artefacts, before using paints and digital media to share what they can see in other ways.

Design and Technology

During these sessions your child will design, make and evaluate a Viking long ship, following specific criteria given to them. They will also hopefully get the chance to make a product to sell as part of a class enterprise using their sewing skills.

Physical Education

This term our PE sessions will be on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays**. At the moment, the Monday session will be outdoor dance. With the aid of a portable speaker, we have been creating shadow dances on the playground. The Tuesday session will be an outdoor sport taught by a coach from Premier Sport. At the moment, the children are being taught the skills needed to play tag rugby.

I hope that this information has been helpful. If you have any questions or need to contact me, please send an email and I will get back to you as soon as possible:

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Mrs Hill - Class Teacher

