

Curriculum Overview for Year 3 – Autumn 1, 2026

Literacy:

We will explore setting descriptions and narrative writing in this first half term. We'll take inspiration from various stories in our History lessons. We will build on what we learnt in year two and notice that it is important to say our sentences out loud so they make sense. We will also focus on using capital letters and full stops correctly. Then, we will think about joining clauses with conjunctions (and / but) which will help us avoid 'run away sentences' in our work. Like last year, we will also have spelling and handwriting lessons four times a week. In handwriting, we will be revising letter formation by going back over the letter families. Praise your child's presentation of their home learning as this will support their handwriting.

Prehistoric Britain

Main foundation subject link:

History

See Knowledge Organiser for more details

Guiding Question:

How did life in prehistoric Britain change and what can archaeologists tell us about it?

Key Experience:

Wednesday 11th November – The Horniman Museum for a Prehistoric Britain workshop!

Maths:

In year three our number range increases from within 100 to within 1000. As with every year, we'll start with place value. We will represent, compare and order numbers before moving on to addition and subtraction. We will add and subtract 1s, 10s and 100s, eventually moving on to questions that involve exchange. We will move on from the use of sticks and dots and begin to introduce more formal methods like column addition and subtraction. Alongside lessons we will also have time dedicated to learning our times tables. You will be given a login for Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) and children are ideally logging in at home at least twice a week to practise. Little and often is the best strategy for learning times tables!

Home Learning:

Spellings should be practised at home each week, uploaded onto Seesaw and will be tested on Fridays. Children are expected to read daily and record this in their reading diaries at least three times a week. We ask that children bring their reading diary into school every Monday and your support with this is greatly appreciated. Books will be changed on Mondays. At this stage of the year, children should be revising their Year 2 times tables (2s, 5s and 10s) and beginning to learn their 3s and 4s - either on paper, through songs and using Times Tables Rockstars.

Reading: Children will have opportunities to read in class every day as well as hearing adults read to them. Each Monday, they will bring home a banded book and a free choice book. As we venture into Year three, we move away from the DSR approach in the Lower school and head towards whole-class reading. This will start in Autumn 2.

RE: This half term our unit is all about 'Peace'. We will think about what peace is and what it means to us. We will think about it in nonspiritual and spiritual contexts. For example, we'll think about what peace means to Christians and how Muslims associate Allah with peace. We'll also study important figures like Martin Luther King (did his attitude to peace change lives?) and Gandhi (how did he change attitude peacefully?).

Art: The first technique we are exploring is drawing with charcoal. We will discover how to make drawings that capture a sense of drama or performance and we will focus on using charcoal in dynamic ways. We will experiment with mark making to create various lines, shapes and tones, and learn about chiaroscuro. We will make links with cave art which will provide a lovely link to our topic, Prehistoric Britain.

PE: Children will have two PE lessons a week (PE coach-led on Thursdays and teacher-lead another day of the week). Teacher-led sessions will focus on ball skills. Our PE coach will focus on the fundamental skills of balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping. Please ensure children come dressed in comfortable clothing and trainers.

Science: We'll study five different areas of science this year and the first is 'Animals, including Humans'. We will learn that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition. Animals cannot make their own food like plants do – they get their nutrition from what they eat, and some, such as mammals, produce milk to feed their young at the start of life. We will also look into the main food groups. We will also study some skeletons and muscles and learn that they offer support, protection and movement. We will work scientifically by identifying and grouping and making observations.

Music: One of the exciting changes moving up to key stage two is the introduction of weekly instrument sessions. We'll soon start learning the recorder with a specialist music teacher - Laylah. The school will provide a recorder for every child for the year. This session will take place on Fridays. In addition, we also have a key artist of each term. This term our artist is: Buena Vista Social Club. We will also have singing assemblies.

PSHE/RSE: Our first values are respect and reflection and in sessions we will think about cooperation and sharing the views we hold and managing friendships. Our Loveable and Capable link is 'I have'. In our RSE lessons, we will also learn about body differences, personal space and who to go to for help and support.

Spanish: We are excited to start learning Spanish now we are in KS2. These session will be on a Monday morning; weekly. By the end of the first half term, we should be able to say various greetings, introduce ourselves and count to ten. Those that are feeling confident will use different greetings for different situations and be able to ask and answer simple questions.