



Welcome back. We hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas holidays with your children and they are refreshed and ready to return to school for another term. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about what your children will be learning this term. If we need to share information with you, we will communicate this via StudyBugs. Important dates are to be found on the reverse of this letter and can also be found easily by going to www.pegasusacademytrust.org and clicking on the 'Events' tab at the top of the page.

Reading and writing:

Following on from the foundations built in Key Stage One, we have introduced the Little Wandle fluency reading scheme which builds confident readers by improving their reading speed. These sessions take place in small groups three times a week for the whole year group.

In English, we will be reading a number of exciting fictional texts such as 'Prince Cinders' by Babette Cole and Aesop's Fables with a focus on 'The Hare and the Tortoise'. Through our work with these texts, the children will develop their ability to write stories which include dialogue between characters, exciting vocabulary and different sentence openers (fronted adverbials). As well as our fictional texts, the children will also have the opportunity to study fantastic, contemporary poetry by Josh Seigal who will also be visiting all of our schools in March.

Maths:

In our maths learning this term, the children will be focusing on a number of areas. We are starting the year looking at money where we will add money amounts and calculate change. You can support your child at home by looking at coins, playing shops and talking about how to calculate change given when purchasing items.

We will learn how to solve multiplication problems using the 'grid method'. We will then move onto how to solve division problems mentally and using our knowledge of times tables. To learn more about these topics please view the Pegasus Calculation videos on the [school website](#).

Once we have covered these areas, we will move onto learning about fractions. The children will learn to understand what a tenth is and how it can be defined as well as how to add and subtract fractions. They will also be learning how to recognise equivalent fractions. All of these skills will give the children a good foundation at the start of Key Stage 2 so that they are prepared when we move onto applying these skills to real life problems.

Science:

Our science topic for this term is 'Rocks and Soils'. We will start the new year by learning all about different rocks and their properties. We will discover what is happening inside the Earth beneath our feet. We will also examine how fossils are formed and make links to Mary Anning and the dinosaurs in Crystal Palace park.

Thematic:

Until half term, children will continue to learn about 'The Crystal Palace'. The history and geography knowledge gained in the autumn term will be extremely useful in the run up to our end of half term 'Thematic Week'. Our Museum Day will celebrate 'The Great Exhibition'. Children will be invited to come to school dressed as Victorians visiting the exhibition (this could be celebrating a culture displaying their artefacts or dressing as a Victorian). The climax to our Crystal Palace theme will be the design and technology aspect of the thematic curriculum. Children will have the opportunity to design, plan and build their own bridge using a range of resources based on the work of Victorian designer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

After half term, our theme will change to 'Like a Rolling Stone'. This is a chance for children to learn all about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In history, we will study what it was like in the past and how it compares to today. In geography, we will be looking at the changes to land and civilisation over time. In art, children will replicate cave painting art with hand made paint. In DT, children will have the opportunity to prepare and cook a Stone Age stew, understanding how ingredients were grown and caught for a healthy balanced stone age meal.

Trips and events:

At the end of this half term, children will have the opportunity to experience life as a Victorian child and will be immersed in fun activities throughout the day as the conclusion to our Thematic Week. This term we will be visiting the local library where children will have the opportunity to get a library card. They will learn how to use the library and have the chance to take books out to borrow and read. It is hoped that we will also be able to visit Crystal Palace Park before the end of our topic. We are just waiting to find out when the park will be fully reopened.

What you can do to help:

- Please collect kitchen roll and toilet roll tubes for Thematic week.
- Plan for Museum Day and World Book Day costumes (we do not expect you to buy new outfits)
- We will be running an Easter bonnet competition.
- Please make sure that your child **reads every night** and you sign their reading diary at the end of the week. Regular reading is proven to improve children's learning. Ask them questions about what they've read.
- Lists of spelling words are available and children are expected to know these by the end of the year and can be found at: <https://www.pegasusacademytrust.org/media/The-Pegasus-Academy-Trust-Year-3-and-4-spellings.pdf>
- 'Mathletics' is our online maths homework. Children are expected to earn 1,000 points (a bronze certificate) each week but are welcome to earn more points! 'Live' Mathletics is particularly good for developing mental maths skills.
- Practising times tables with your child is essential to support their maths work further up the school. By the end of Year 3, children are expected to have learned their 3s, 4s and 8s in addition to 2s, 5s and 10s. This is in preparation for the [Multiplication Tables Check](#) which happens at the end of Year 4.
- Additionally, helping your children to complete their thematic homework is a wonderful way of spending time with your child whilst supporting their learning.

Many thanks The Year 3 Team

Don't forget to check the website at: www.pegasusacademytrust.org

Dates for your diary	
16th January	Cedar Class assembly 9am
6th February	Museum day (children dress up for The Great Exhibition)
27th February	Holly Class assembly 9am
2nd-6th March	Book week
25th March	Easter performance 9:30am & 2:00pm

PE Days		
	Spring 1	Spring 2
Birch	Wednesday	Wednesday
Cedar	Wednesday	Monday
Holly	Wednesday	Wednesday

Library	
Birch	Friday
Cedar	Monday
Holly	Friday

Enrichment (Tuesday pm)		
	Spring 1	Spring 2
Birch	Gardening (wellies needed)	Values Vs Violence
Cedar	Spanish	Gardening (wellies needed)
Holly	Values Vs Violence	Sports (school uniform & trainers)