



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 3 Termly Newsletter: Spring 2023

Welcome to Year 3. We hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas holidays with your children as 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 use the 'text to parents' service, so please make sure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number for you. Important dates for the term can be found easily by going to www.pegasusacademytrust.org and clicking on the 'Events' tab at the top of the page.

English: We will be working hard in Literacy to continue developing the children's reading and writing this term. With this aim in mind, we will be reading a number of exciting fictional texts such as Prince Cinders by Babette Cole, 'Jemmy Button' by Valerio Vidali and The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein. Through our work with these texts, the children will develop their ability to write in a range of genres including descriptive writing, non-fiction instructions, dialogue and narrative retelling. As well as our fictional texts, children will also have the opportunity to study fantastic, contemporary poetry by Josh Seigal.

Maths: In our maths learning this term, the children will be focusing on a number of areas. We will continue to look at money and apply our previous learning to this topic before learning how to solve multiplication problems using the 'grid method'. We will then move onto how to solve division problems mentally and using 'chunking'. 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 need 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 topics for this term are 'Rocks and Soils' and 'Light and Shadow'. 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 as well as how soil and fossils are formed. We will then move on to discover how we see light, why it is important to us and how shadows are formed. Working as scientists and undertaking investigations will consolidate this learning.

Thematic: Until half term, children will continue to learn about 'The Crystal Palace'. The history and geography knowledge the children learned in the autumn term will be extremely useful in the run up to our end of half term 'Thematic Week'. 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 structure to replace the Crystal Palace out of art straws. 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 as well as create their own Stonehenge sketch using different pencil shading. In DT, children will have the opportunity to build Stone Age pottery as well as craft Stone Age weapons and tools.

Places of interest, linked to our theme, that you could visit with your child are the British Museum in London, Butser Ancient Farm in Waterlooville or Stonehenge in Salisbury.

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. We will then share photos of these events on the school website for your enjoyment. At the start of next half term, we have a very exciting group of cavemen and women who will be visiting Year 3 to kick-start our new topic. 'Real life' Neanderthals will be camping out on the field at Whitehorse Manor Junior School and each class will have the opportunity to spend part of the day with them. They will be discussing life as a caveman and will show children how they survived and how to make different tools. We hope to see as many children dressed up as possible.

What you can do to help:

- 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. Ask them what they think the words mean or what the character might be thinking or feeling. There is no such thing as a night with 'no homework': every night is reading night!
- 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 on-line 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 occurs 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.

The Year 3 Team

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