

## **Class 3 Information**

### **Autumn Term 2021**

Welcome to the new Class 3! We are based in Helvellyn classroom this year and although everyone has been with me for at least a year, this newsletter aims to keep you up to date about how things are going to work this year and will hopefully form a handy reference. Mrs Wadey teaches Class 3 everyday but on Thursday afternoons we will welcome Mr Dean then have Mrs Craggs for PE.

#### **Arriving and Leaving**

Children should arrive between 8.35am and 8.50am and enter by walking through Bowfell outdoor area, round the back and in through Class 3's outside door. Here they will find their pegs for coats, PE bags and lunch boxes. Reply slips and payments should be placed in the green box next to the pegs. Everyone has morning tasks to settle to each morning and these include number and word tasks as well as a rota of computer tasks like IDL or times tables. Arriving promptly means we can all get settled and organized to begin our day calmly. We aim to have everyone organised, working and ready for registration by 8.50am each day.

At 3pm, the children will leave through Bowfell outdoor area and this can often be a good opportunity to catch up with me. We expect that your child is being collected by someone that is known to us and your child, unless we have been informed of different arrangements.

#### **Contacting School**

For a quick message or question then it is best to email the class account at [class3@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:class3@levens.cumbria.sch.uk), however, I'm not always able to access emails before school, so if urgent you may call or email the office. I will aim to get back to you within 48hours of you sending your message. Unfortunately, I am not available for face-to-face discussions with parents in the mornings before school as I'm preparing for the teaching day. If your query requires a little more time or is confidential please make an appointment to see me at another time via emailing the office or the class address.

#### **Uniform and Equipment**

All uniform, including PE kit, needs to be clearly named please. Jewelry, make-up and nail polish are not permitted on school days. Stud earrings are allowed to be worn, but they must be removed for all physical activities, including swimming. Long hair should be tied up and all children should wear sensible school shoes and have a coat in school every day. Pupils can choose to wear school trousers OR tights/long socks with skirts to keep legs warm as the days get cooler please; but leggings and joggers are not permitted.

Please keep pencil cases and colouring pens safe for use at home. All children have their own named pencil and we have lots of colouring and crafting things to use in class.

#### **Water bottles and Snack**

Please bring in a named water bottles to be stored in school by our sink. Children from year 3 upwards are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit/veg to eat at playtime especially important on Wednesday's swimming days as our lunch will be slightly later than usual.

#### **PE**

PE lessons take place on Thursday afternoons with Mrs Craggs this term. All children should have a basic PE kit in school every day in a bag on their peg consisting of black shorts, pale blue Levens T-shirt, clean trainers, plain joggers or leggings and long sleeved Levens hoodie. If it is wet on our PE day, unless the weather is particularly poor, we will be outside so spare socks and a thin waterproof jacket would be useful too.

#### **Swimming**

As you already know, we are delighted to be able to return to swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre in Kendal during the autumn term, starting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. We travel by coach. Children are grouped according to ability. Swimming instructors, oversee what is taught and staff from school take groups

too. Earrings must be removed and everyone wears a swimming hat in the pool. Swimming Kit checklist – towel, costume/trunks, swimming hat, optional goggles.

### **Homework**

Homework will be set every week on a Monday and should be handed in by the following Monday. All homework tasks are tailored specifically to your child's ability. This will usually take the form of a sheet of paper with clear instructions on a task which might be maths (number facts or games), English (spellings or sentence work) or topic based tasks. Spellings and number facts tasks are presented in a way that supports long remembered learning. Practising a little and often, rather than completing the whole sheet in one go, is recommended. Children may need support in managing this and getting in good routines that fit around their other weekly commitments.

**Reading** is also part of our weekly homework and everyone should read at least five times a week for 10-15mins; keeping a note of all reading in reading records. This helps us to monitor reading and talk to the children about their reading routines and interests. Some children may prefer to read independently, although times to share a book and read with an adult are essential to develop fluency and comprehension skills right through school. We value parents' comments in reading record books though we encourage the children to make their own comments too as they become more fluent readers. Reading books are carefully monitored and book bags need to be in school every day and they should be taken home every evening. The children are lucky to have a very wide range of books in class from poetry, fiction, picture books, magazines and comics and all have access to our library for other non-fiction books. Some children will be given suitable books but, when appropriate, we encourage the children to make their own decisions about what they want to read.

**Times tables** is an important focus in Years 3 and 4, learning all times table facts up to x12. It takes much effort and constant revision for instant recall to be embedded and each times table needs to be reviewed often. As a guide, Year 3 should be revising multiplication and division facts linked to 2x, 5x and 10x then learn 3x, 4x and 8x. By the summer term Year 4 children need to know all their multiplication and division table facts up to 12x. This means with quick recall of under 6 seconds!

We recommend the following structured approach:

Firstly, learning and chanting the sequence of answers forwards and backwards

3, 6, 9, 12 and 36, 33, 30

Then learning and chanting the complete x and ÷ calculation

$1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $2 \times 3 = 6$  and  $3 \div 3 = 1$ ,  $6 \div 3 = 2$

Followed by learning to answer out of order questions with quick recall.

Learning tables is ongoing homework and support from home is always appreciated.

**IDL** is an online spelling and reading programme which everyone in our class will continue to use.

**TTRockstars** is an online game for supporting learning and progress in times tables which everyone in years 3 and 4 will be using. Both these programmes can be accessed at home, details on our website.

### **Praise and Rewards**

Achievements in behaviour and work are praised through many and varied actions such as thumbs up, smiles, rounds of applause, verbal and written praise and team points. Children may also be mentioned in our Golden Book, which is added to by all staff members, and this is shared with the whole school in Celebration Assembly each Friday. Our Friday "Planning" session where children have a choice of activities is earned through good attitudes to learning and good behaviour.

We will be continuing to use our school website, especially the wonderful blog and our class page (found via Pupils, Class Three – Years 3&4), to keep you informed and share our learning with you with photos and information. We hope many of you will be able to attend our classroom drop-ins on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September starting immediately after school. I look forward to catching up with you very soon.

Mrs Wadey