

YEAR 3 – SPRING 1

English

As part of our deserts topic we will be studying the picture book 'Meerkat Mail'. We will be creating our own letters and postcards from different locations and develop our diary writing skills with a focus on using fronted adverbials. We will research information and use this to create non-chronological reports about deserts.

PSHE-Diversity & Communities

We will learn about different communities that exist in the UK and consider some of the different views, lifestyles and beliefs people have. They will understand about stereotyping and the importance of challenging it. There will be the opportunity to explore and share the different groups and communities they belong to, and the roles of different people in the community.

ICT

In ICT we will make links to our English unit of work and explore different forms of communication in the form of Email. We will look at composing Emails, using them safely and sending attachments.

Science

This half term our topic is about our 'Amazing Bodies'. We will explore the different types of skeletons that animals have and compare these by naming bones and muscles. We will plan a fair test and measure and record accurately.

Topic

'In the Desert' has a geography focus this half term. We will find out what deserts are, where in the world they are found, investigate their climates and find out about their formation. We will explore how deserts are used by those that live there and make a savoury dish with seasonal produce in DT.

Maths

We will finish our first unit on multiplication and division before moving on to the second unit (with a focus on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables) using mental methods and progressing to formal written methods. This is in addition to:

- Frequent number repetition
- Using a range of equipment to reinforce learning
- Outdoor maths lessons
- Recognising gaps in learning.

RE

In this unit we investigate the origins of Christianity. We will reflect on historic maps of the Middle East, explore some stories from Jesus' youth and understand some aspects of his teachings. We hope to have visits from different faith leaders to compare the story/teachings of Jesus.

MFL

We will continue to extend our knowledge of Spanish phonic sounds and expand our vocabulary around describing ourselves and others.

PE

Indoors, we will revisit gymnastics and the use of hand equipment. While outdoors, we will explore a variety of games involving courts, nets and walls.

MUSIC

How does music make the world a better place? While exploring the answer to this question we will celebrate a wide range of musical styles.



**Footprints
in the Sand**

Dorado and Columba Class

We hope you have a happy and restful Christmas break and that the children return eager and ready to start our new topic. Our studies will bring us to explore warmer parts of the world through our 'Footprints in the Sand' topic. We also welcome Mr Bourne back to Monkfield Park to cover Ms Deegan's maternity leave in Columba Class.

Our communication with the families of our children continues to be paramount so please do not hesitate to contact us if you do need to discuss any queries or issues: Mrs Flack or Mrs Squires will be available on their days before and after school at Dorado classroom door and Mr Bourne for Columba pupils. If you require a more in-depth conversation please e-mail the office who will forward the message to us to make an appointment.

Homework

Homework in KS2 should be manageable and is always linked to skills previously taught in the classroom. Timings for completing homework area as follows:

Daily	Reading & Spelling	10 minutes each
Weekly	Literacy/Topic & Maths	20-30 minutes each

Homework is set via the online learning platforms we use in school and children need to submit their learning via Seesaw. If your child has any problems with any part of their homework, they have been asked to come to discuss the task with us before Thursday and if the homework is not completed to a good standard then it may need to be repeated. I-Pads are available at the start of each day for children who need to use these for uploading their work in school. Please feel free to write comments on your child's Seesaw account as to how you feel they coped with the tasks.

Spellings

Spellings will be set on Monday each week and will be tested on the Friday, except the first and last week of any half term. Our aim is to see the children using the spellings that we set in their written work with increased accuracy throughout the term. These spelling are set on ReadiWriter and a paper copy will also be available for those that ask for it.

Ways in which you can help your child:

- * Check Seesaw/homework books and support your child in completing their homework
- * Regularly read with your child and discuss what they have read (we can provide suggestions on how to question if requested)
- * Test your child on their spellings and play word games using their spelling words
- * Practise counting forwards and backwards in different steps from any number (this is particularly relevant in Year3)
- * Give opportunities to use money, including calculating change
- * Practise times table facts and related division facts (focus on x2, x5, x10, x3, x4 and x8)

PE

Children must come to school in their PE kit on Tuesday, this consists of; black shorts/joggers and a white T shirt or warm jogging bottoms, a warm sweatshirt and sensible, supportive training shoes. Children will only be excused from PE on medical grounds if we receive a letter from the parent/carer.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Tuesday 4th January	INSET day (children not in school)
Wednesday 5th January	Term starts (children return)
10th January	Healthy Selfie campaign week in school
14th-18th February	Half Term