Monday 14th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be able to welcome you all back. I have been amazed by how positive and excited the children have been about coming back to school. They have shown great resilience and I am so happy to see them!

This year, in Class 3, Mr Turner will be supporting us every morning and he will support us with our PE on Wednesday afternoons.

Last week, we worked on Protective Behaviours in class. There are two important themes to this programme: ‘We all have the right to feel safe all of the time’ and ‘We can talk with someone about anything, even if it feels awful or small’. During the week we also focused on school rules and routines, including the new safety and hygiene aspects. Throughout the week Mr Turner and I have been blown away with the children’s maturity and the calmness in the classroom. We have spent time discussing friendships and what makes a good friend. The children have put a great deal of effort into their place value work in maths. We absolutely loved doing the daily mile in the woods, clocking up over 6 miles throughout the week. It was great to walk and talk, taking in the nature around us.

**Imaginative Learning Programme (ILP)**

This half term, we will be studying the topic ‘**Predators’**. We will be finding out a great deal about animals; how they move, what they feel like and what they eat. In Computing, we will program a toy to move across a grid – will it be caught by a predator? We’ll learn about the different parts of a plant and how some plants are predators! From our investigations about the human skeleton, we’ll find out how muscle make the bones move. We’ll investigate food chains and learn about how animals find their food. Using the internet, we’ll research the majestic peregrine falcon and discover where crocodiles live. After our research, we’ll create an exciting aquatic animation. At the end of the ILP, we will make animal fact presentations, collages and we will learn about the interesting (and disgusting) world of parasites! Our linked text is The Sheep Pig by Dick King-Smith which we have started, the children are loving every page of it so far! Visit our class page on the school website for lots of exciting links related to our new topic.

Next half term, we will study the topic **‘Tremors’**. In this project, we will find out about the dangerous world of natural disasters and their deadly effects. We will gather rock samples, find out about different types of rocks and sort them according to their properties. By carrying out research, we’ll investigate the Earth’s layers and the location of volcanoes, discovering what causes them to erupt. We will write powerful poetry inspired by our work on volcanoes. Working as archaeologists, we’ll locate Mount Vesuvius on a map and find out what it was like to live in Pompeii during the eruption. Using our model making skills, we’ll build earthquake-proof structures and test them out. We will also use different modelling materials to create a volcano. For this topic, our linked text will be The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman.

**PE**

For the autumn term, Class 3 have PE on **Wednesdays**with Mr Turner. On this day, each week, children must wear their PE kits to school.

**PE kit:**

* Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
* Green T-shirt with logo
* Trainers or plimsolls
* Tracksuits may be worn for outside PE during colder weather
* No earrings or jewellery

**During Autumn 1, we will be spending more time outdoors, for example our walks in the woods. Children will not require PE kits for this but may need to bring trainers in a bag if their school shoes are not comfortable to wear in the woods. Children must bring a jacket every day in case the weather changes whilst out walking.**

**Key Timings:**

**Reading -** Your child will need to read to an adult at home and have their Reading Record signed, daily if possible.

**Homework** - Optional Curriculum Project activities (see home learning ideas on the class page of the school website or on Google Classroom)More information will follow this week regarding the use of homework on Google Classroom.

**Times Table Rockstars -** Tues/Thu 8:30-9:00 for Y3, Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-9:00 for Y4 (times will be adjusted for children who have a temporary later arrival time).

**Spellings -** Issued on Mondays, practised every day in class, tested the following Monday. (Spellings will be uploaded onto Google Classroom each Monday).

I am excited about the term ahead with Class 3 and thank you in advance for your support.

**Mrs Olefhile**

**Class teacher**