



# Year 3: Start of the year newsletter

Hello and welcome to Year 3 and the beginning of Key Stage Two. It has been a pleasure to see how well the children have returned to school and settled into their new classes. All children have shown good manners and have helped each other in many ways. It is lovely to see the children coming into school so happily each morning, listening well to adults and completing tasks set.

We are thoroughly looking forward to teaching your children this year and watching them make progress with their work through all of the activities that we have planned.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office and they will pass the message on to us.

We look forward to meeting you at Parents' Evening at the end of this half term.

From the Year 3 team

## Physical Education

PE will take place on Tuesday's and Friday's. We ask that all children have the correct PE kit on these days. On Tuesday's we will be working outdoors so children must have pumps in school. A warm jumper will also be needed as the weather gets colder. Remember to remove earrings before school and tie up long hair.

## Homework

Homework will be sent home each Friday and must be handed in the following Wednesday. Some activities will be talking points but please make sure the starred activity/activities are completed in their homework books. Please make sure that homework is completed in pencil and with the same expectations as if the work was completed in school. Each Friday ten spellings will also be sent home with their spelling book. Please write/learn spellings each week writing them as many times as you like in your book. Spellings will be tested the following Friday in class.

## Reading books

Your child will bring two reading books home each week. One book will have been chosen by the child from the school library and this is an interest book for **you** to share with them. The other book will be matched to your child's ability level and they should be able to read it fluently, with expression and sometimes some elements of challenge. Hear them read it and celebrate their success remembering to record their efforts in their reading diary. Children should read at home at least three times each week. While reading try to ask questions about the text to ensure they have understood what they have read.

Bug Club books will also be allocated to your child's account at their level. Please try and share one of these books each week and complete the tasks that go with them.

[For further support please visit our Reading at Home website page.](#)

## Letter formation

At St James's we follow Kinetic Letters Handwriting scheme. In Year 3 children will begin to join letters and then join some letters consistently when writing words. Whenever we learn a new join we will encourage the children to use this join in their written work and by the end of the year most children should be joining letters within all written work.

Videos of how to form individual letters and joins can be found on the school website. To find out more and to access resources to use with your child at home please click one of the following links:

[Kinetic Letters – letter formation](#)

[Kinetic letters - joining](#)

## Curriculum

You can view the Year 3 curriculum overview and Autumn Term Information web by clicking on the link below

[Link to curriculum page on website](#)

## Snacks/uniform

Snacks are no longer provided by school and therefore must be brought from home. We ask that snacks are a healthy fruit option.

Please ensure all school uniform is labelled with the child's name including pumps and shoes.

If they are going home with someone different can you let us now in writing or by contacting the school office.

## Reach

At St James's the word 'REACH' helps us to be the best learners we can be. Each letter stands for a type of excellent learning behaviour.

In class we can earn REACH points for displaying exceptional leaning behaviour.

The five elements of REACH are:

- Responsible learner – happy to be here; manage ourselves well; know what to do if we are stuck; motivate ourselves.
- Enthusiastic learner – ready to learn; know how I like learning best; take risks; adaptable.
- Actions learner – manage distractions; focus; work well with others; manage information.
- Creative learner – ask great questions; make links between the classroom and the world outside; enjoy challenge; enjoy stories.
- Have a go learner! – it is ok to make mistakes; be an explorer; listen and react positively; I'm up for it.

## TTRockstars

From Year 2 children at St James receive a log-in to Times Tables Rockstars – an online resource in which children progress through levels whilst becoming fluent in each time tables. In Year 3 we learn the 4, 6 and 8 tables, building on the 2, 5 and 10 from year 2, but children need to practise their fluency of these at home at least three times a week for around 15 minutes.

## PTFA

Our fabulous PTFA are always keen to welcome new members and volunteers. If you would like to get involved or just find out more, please contact the school office.

Even in the current climate our PTFA are finding creative ways to support school. Currently the PTFA has set up an Amazon wish list where parents can purchase a book for our classrooms. You can access the list using this link:

## Praise assemblies

Every Friday we have a Praise assembly where we celebrate achievements in school over the week. We also love to hear about the pupils' achievements out of school too. This can involve them bringing in any trophies, certificates, letters or medals so that we can celebrate in our Friday Praise assembly.