



# Woodpeckers



Welcome to year 3! We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break and that the children are ready for an action packed half term in year 3.

Our main topic for the half term is 'Hunter Gatherer' which focuses on prehistoric history from the Stone Age (mainly the Neolithic period), then through the Bronze and Iron Ages. During this topic we will cover the following areas:

- Using dates and vocabulary relating to the passing of time, including ancient, modern, BC, AD, century and decade.
- The gradual transfer from hunter gatherer to farming and settlements.
- Looking at how we find out about the different Ages from different sources, including discovering more about the finds at Skara Brae in Orkney, and make comparisons with modern life.
- Explore the significance of monuments, such as dolmens, megaliths and henges.
- Research and identify how the extraction of metals from ores triggered the Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages.
- Exploring and recreating Stone Age paintings, such as those from the Lascaux and Chauvet Caves, and telling stories through them without writing words.
- To identify how ancient people lived from day to day and what evidence there is to support this.
- We will have a Topic Day later this half term to complete a range of topic related practical activities.

As well as our main topic we will also cover these areas:

- In PE we will be improving our ball skills and looking at sequences in gymnastics. Woodpeckers PE days will be Mondays and Wednesdays. **The children need to have their full PE kit in school EVERY day, please.**
- In French we will be learning the vocabulary for numbers from 0-10, greetings, asking for and giving names, and classroom instructions.
- In Music our focus will be on learning the Recorder - looking at the history, musical notation and technique. The children will be loaned a recorder for them to practise with at home.
- In ICT our focus is on e-safety and following the SMART Code to keep safe when using the internet.
- In PSHE our focus is 'New Beginnings' where we will establish the class rules and the reward systems we will use, acceptable behaviour around the school, the expectations of being in Year 3, the importance of community, the qualities of a team player, joining new groups, and how we solve problems when they occur including the importance of compromise. As part of drug awareness we will be discussing why we take medicines and how they help us. We will also discuss the importance of not sharing medicines.
- In Science we will be focusing on Rocks, looking at comparing and recognising different types of rocks and soils and their properties, describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock, and to recognise that soils are made from rocks and other organic matter.
- In RE our topic will be to understand how and why believers show their commitments through the journey of life.
- In Maths we will be following the New National Curriculum, with a focus on number and place value, counting, multiplication and division, comparing and ordering numbers, measurement, addition and subtraction.
- In English we will establish links with our topic work to look at Adventure and Mystery stories, using the classic children's book, 'Stig of the Dump' as a focus; plus using explanation texts and performance poetry.



Children will now receive weekly homework on top of their reading. Homework will be handed out Thursday or Friday and will need to be in school the following Wednesday.



When the children enter Key Stage 2 the government provision of fruit no longer continues. Please do feel free to provide your child with a **healthy** snack for break times.

Woodpeckers will be taught by Mrs Browning with Mrs Pottruff teaching the class on Fridays.

If you have any concerns or want to discuss anything throughout the year, please catch us after school or during the drop-in sessions.

We look forward to a great year.

## The Woodpeckers Team

