



Year 3 Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

'And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.' Colossians 3:14

Welcome to a new school year!



In Religion we will be focussing on the Christian family. We will be thinking about the Holy Family, our own family and the diocese. Reflecting purposefully on how we are all a part of God's greater family.

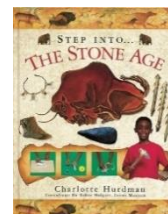
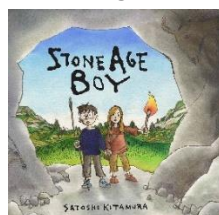
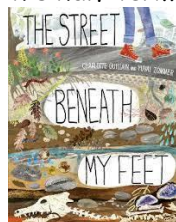
Our topic for this half term is "The Stone Age." This is based on exploring the changes in history during the period of the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children will begin with understanding what an archaeologist is and taking part in their own dig to search for historical artefacts. They will look at what pre-history is and the chronology of pre-historic Britain before moving onto looking at the key changes in each age.



In art, the children will look closely at the cave paintings from this period and using our observations to inspire us to sketch our own. They will also create their own Stonehenge chalk drawings.

In computing, we will develop our understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. Year 3 will also compare digital and non-digital devices. Next, learners will be introduced to computer networks, including devices that make up a network's infrastructure, such as wireless access points and switches. Finally, learners will discover the benefits of connecting devices in a network.

This half term in English we will be reading:



To begin with, we will think about what is beneath our feet and label the layers of the earth.

Year 3 will then use Stone Age Boy as a basis for narrative writing. We will write character descriptions and story openings focussing on the use of language for effect, basic sentence structure and punctuation. We will be focussing on editing, improving and structuring simple sentences.

The children will also be writing instructions for how to dye cloth and how to make a clay pot, focussing on layout and adverb choice.

Finally, we will write Stone Age diamante poems focussing on word classes.



Our Science topic is Rocks and Soils and we will study the different properties of rocks and soils, including fossils. We will be developing our skills of working scientifically through our investigations.

In Maths, as part of our continuation in using a concrete, pictorial and abstract approach, we will extend knowledge of place value. Using this, we will begin to look at formal methods of addition and subtraction.

PLACE VALUE CHART		
Hundreds	Tens	Ones
100s	10s	1s



Spellings will be set via Spelling Shed every Friday ready for testing the following Friday. Please ensure your child practises at home using their own personal log in- **this will be stuck in the front of your child's reading record**. Spelling is a vital part of learning to become a competent writer. It is a very important life skill that we value highly here at St Joseph's, so please support your child with this and encourage them to learn their spellings each week.

Children will receive weekly homework tasks, which will consist of:

- Spellings- via the Spelling Shed App
- Reading
- Times table Rock Stars App - focussed on 2's, 5's and 10's.
- My Maths Online activity linked to learning from the classroom.

Reading is another important life skill that is of highest priority in our school. Our aim being to develop within our pupils a lifelong passion for reading. To help us with this we ask that you encourage your child to read for around 10 minutes a night at home. You have already received the updated information about how Reading Champions has now changed since your child has entered Key Stage 2. **Please ensure your child's book and reading record are in school every day so that we have the opportunity to also read with the children and also monitor their reading at home regularly.**

P.E. in Year 3

Please ensure your child attends school, wearing their PE kit on the following days:

Class 7 - Monday and Thursday

Class 8 - Wednesday and Thursday

We hope that your children have an exciting and enjoyable time with us this year and that they are filled with enthusiasm for their learning. We are looking forward to working with yourselves and your children and to seeing the children grow, develop and progress in their learning.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Martin and Mr Cunningham