

# Welcome to Year 3

Everything you need to go about making the move to Key Stage 2 Shaun

Stirling and Pam Koutsouvelis

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the family members of our current Year 3 classes. We are really looking forward to teaching your children this year and working with you to get the very best out of each individual.

The good news is that we are now back and the children seem to have already settled down to their new lives in 'The Juniors'. This set of slides is aimed at giving you some information about timings, routines and expectations in Year 3. The information matches that delivered at Monday's 'Meet the Teacher' event which we understand many of you may not be able to attend in person.

## Physical Education

Children need an indoor and an outdoor PE kit. A pair of black shorts and a plain white T-shirt comprise the indoor kit. The outdoor kit is a white T-shirt

under a black tracksuit with a pair of trainers. Please no logos or branded sportswear. We encourage the children to bring these in at the start of each half-term and only take them home for a wash at the half-term holiday.

On Wednesday mornings the children will do gymnastics and continue working toward the British Association of Gymnastics Awards (BAGA). Games for both Y3 classes is on Friday afternoon. Each Friday morning the children will put on their trainers to run on the field for 'Smile for a Mile'.

Children without PE or games kits provide supervisory problems for school staff. All children with long hair need to be able to tie it up safely. Children with ear piercings should ideally NOT wear these to school during days when they have PE or games lessons. If they do, they should be able to safely remove them themselves prior to participating.

Finally we find that the children become anxious early on about the prospect of school swimming lessons. These will start in the summer term 2022 and we will write to you with further details closer to this date.

### Spellings

Your child may already have mentioned that we have assessed their ability to spell the most commonly occurring or high frequency words this week (Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words).

We attach particular importance to the spelling of these words and children identified as needing additional support will receive help in learning these words. All children will receive a list of words each week. These will be drawn from the National Curriculum and will relate to the grammar and spelling lessons taught in school.

### Times Tables

By the end of this year, the children would normally be expected to be fluent in multiplication (and corresponding division facts) for the two, five, ten, three, four and eight times tables. Children may already be able to count in 2s or 5s, often using their fingers, to derive the answer to, for example six twos. This is different from knowing that six twos are twelve. If they know this then it is a simple step to recognise two sixes are twelve and that  $12 \div 6 = 2$  and  $12 \div 2 = 6$ . To this end children will also be tested on their ability to recall these facts each week. We will introduce these beginning with the tables that the children are more likely to be familiar with i.e. tens and twos. Children who know these will progress more rapidly onto the other tables and division facts.

Both tables and spellings are assessed in a yellow test book on Tuesday so please ensure that your child has this in their bag. These books go back and forth between home and school together with the reading record (see below) and will give you an indication of how your child is getting along.

We also plan to use PurpleMash 2Quiz during an IT slot to consolidate the weekly spellings and encourage you to use Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) to develop fluency.

The yellow books also carry login information for Mathletics, PurpleMash and your child's Gmail account.

### Reading

We really want to encourage a love of reading and would like every child to have three books with them in school at all times.

#### 1. Their school reading book

This will be chosen from the banded books kept in baskets in the corridor. They will have an opportunity to change their book from the selection on offer during daily quiet reading sessions after lunch.

## 2. A School library book

Year 3 have a library of books selected by Mrs Holt our librarian together with books belonging to Mr Stirling and Mrs Koutsouvelis. These are kept in both Y3 classrooms.

We run 'Junior Librarian 3', a library management system in the junior library.

The children can choose a book selected from the super collection of books

collated by our school librarian, Debbie Holt.



3. A book or magazine from home. We want to acknowledge the reading going on outside of school so would like children to have something of their own to read. This could be a novel that they just can't put down or a magazine that they might receive as a subscription (anything from 'The Beano' to 'Aquila')



We are also making it a priority to find time to read stories aloud to the children at the end of the day. This is particularly easy this term while we study the work of Roald Dahl.

Children will be listened to at least once a week in school during guided reading. Don't feel that you need to make lengthy notes in children's reading record books, particularly if your child is one of our more fluent readers. Page numbers and initials will do. However we do acknowledge reading at home by rewarding children who have read three times or more a week with class dojos. Equally if you would like to make a comment in your child's reading record or ask a question, please feel free to do so. Please ensure that your child's reading book and record are available each and every day.



# BOOKFLIX

literacy team have developed a strategy to further

## Top picks for Year 3

1. A book recommended by a family member.
2. Read a book written by Roald Dahl.
3. Read a picture book.
4. Read a book with an animal as a main character.
6. Read a book about a dragon.

encourage reading this term. Entitled, 'BookFlix', the aim is to get the children reading books from 6 different genres over the course of the term. We will be launching this shortly.

### Mathletics

Your child will have made use of the online learning tool, 'Mathletics' in Key Stage One and during the period of school closure. The children will use this in school when they will be set activities to complete that relate to the current area of learning in class.

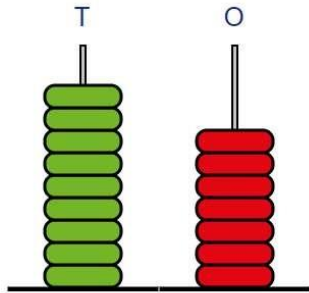
For example at the start of this term we will set activities to develop their understanding of number and place value. You can find your child's





Mathematics login details on the cover of their test book.

What does the abacus show?



9 Tens + 7 Ones

91



97



Hide animation

## Homework

Your child will bring home a grid of homework activities. In common with the other key stage two classes we provide the children with a selection of activities in English, mathematics and topic for them to complete at home. In addition to these specific activities there are two columns of generic activities to be completed throughout Key Stage Two. 'All About Me' provides opportunities to showcase their own talents and interests whereas '40 Things To Do Before You Leave Norris Bank' values time spent with family and friends.

Once you have the grid it is up to you and your child which six activities you decide to complete and when. They can bring completed activities in at any time up to the end of the topic when we will award a homework certificate.

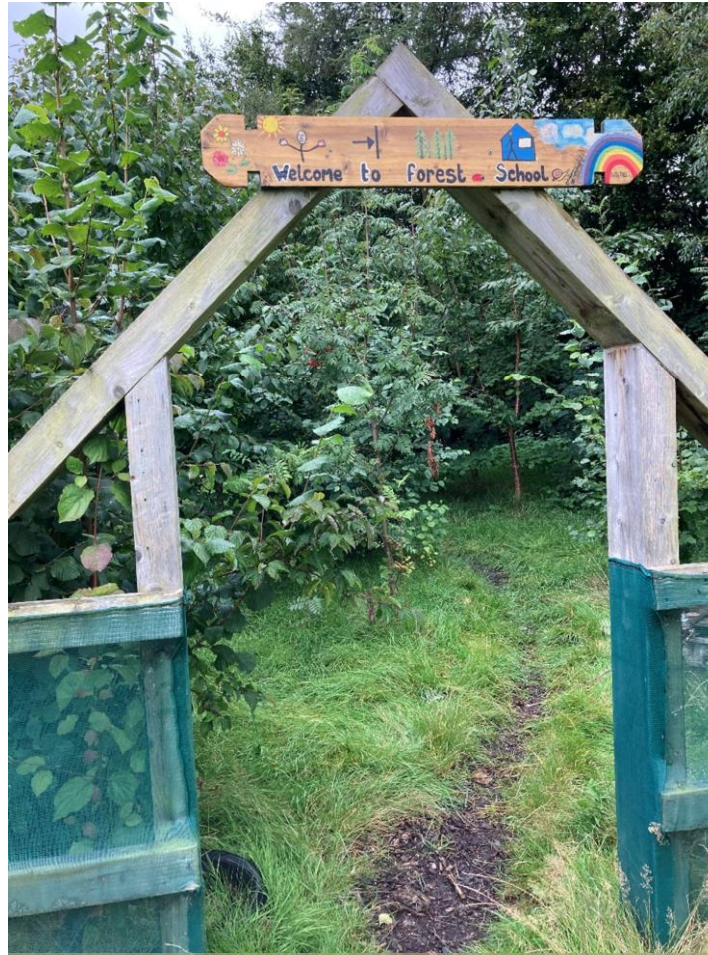
### Snacks and Drinks

Year 3 children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to enjoy at morning break time. This is usually either part of a packed lunch or more helpfully kept in a coat pocket where it can be easily accessed by the child.

Water bottles can be kept in the classroom table where they are accessible at all times. Bottles with a 'sports top' are preferable to the more fashionable 'chili' style bottles or other models with a wide mouth; if one of these bottles accidentally falls over it can ruin a number of exercise books!

## Forest School

Throughout the year, children will have the use of the school's 'Forest School' area. Activities in this area will support social and emotional well-being, as well as promoting a love of the great outdoors. Come rain or shine we will hope to make use of this area so please make sure your child has a good waterproof coat. Please no wellington boots or waterproof trousers unless we make a specific request for these.





## Trips and Residential Visits

We are delighted to once again be able to offer Key Stage 2 children the opportunity to participate in our suite of residential visits.

For Year 3 children this involves two days and a night at Losehill Hall YHA in Castleton on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. You will doubtless have questions about this which we will be able to answer at an information evening on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

We also hope to run at least two day visits to Bolton Museum and Art Gallery and Sharston Materials Recovery Facility to support learning in other areas of the curriculum.



## Contact

If you have any concerns or problems throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Although we are visible in the mornings and immediately after school, we would prefer not to use these busy times to fully address issues that can delay the children's start to the day.

Virtually all parents have signed up for 'Classdojo' which was originally used as a points based reward system for our children reflecting the school's GROW values of goals, respect, ownership and working together. Increasingly Year 3 use this to share photographs and videos of activities that we undertake throughout the year enabling you to have a window into some of our exciting learning. Classdojo has a useful messaging service for brief communication with your child's teacher. You can find out more at

<https://www.classdojo.com/en-gb/#LearnMore>

For more lengthy communication or more private concern, you can email us at  
[shaun.stirling@norrisbank.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:shaun.stirling@norrisbank.stockport.sch.uk)  
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Kind regards,  
Mrs Koutsouvelis and Mr Stirling