

Dear Year 3 parents

This term, our school wide topic is 'The Big Mystery'. In Year 3 this will involve a focus on early history, specifically the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. That's 10,000 years of human history in 5 weeks! Science also plays a key part as we look at the Y3 unit, 'Animals Including Humans'.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th January. School reopens.

Monday 22nd January. 5:00 p.m. Parent Meeting for the Y3 Castleton Residential Visit.

Tuesday 6th February. 'The Big Mystery'. School open for parents after school.

Wednesday 7th February. 'The Big Mystery'. School open for parents before school.

Friday 9th February. School closes for half-term holiday (reopens Monday 19th February).

Science

'Animals Including Humans' has two main areas. Firstly, in the area of nutrition, the children will look at what constitutes a healthy diet and how different food groups provide different nutrients in a balanced diet. Secondly, the children will understand what a vertebrate is and how these animals are classified. They will look more closely at the human skeleton and its function before learning about muscles and the effect of exercise.

Physical Education

The children will continue with outdoor games on Friday afternoon and gymnastics led by Mrs Buchanan on Wednesday morning. Please ensure your child has the appropriate kit for both of these sessions.

History

Our lead into 'The Big Mystery' will be the mysterious stone balls of Skara Brae in Orkney. What are they and what were they used for?

Our whistle stop tour through early history will take in the discovery of metals and the establishment of agriculture which led to the changes in how early Britons lived in the Bronze and Iron Ages. There will be an opportunity to recreate cave art and make a model iron age hut. We will make the link between Britain and the development of other ancient civilizations studied at the start of the year.



Spanish

Children will be taught the names of body parts and family members through songs and games. They will read and add to a story, '¡Que aproveche señor conejo!'

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

What are 'Human Rights'? What rights and responsibilities do the children have as members of our school.

English

We begin the term by looking at the life and works of one of Britain's best loved poets, Roger McGough. The children will look closely at how 'The Sound Collector' has been put together. Can they write a 'Sound Collector' of their own?

The Littlenose stories of John Grant provide an opportunity to look at a number of stories by the same author within the theme of our topic. After listening to and examining the style of the stories and meeting the characters, the children will be expected to write a Littlenose tale of their own.

Mathematics

Children will continue rehearsing their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10x tables and their corresponding division facts. The speed and accuracy that they are able to recall these facts should be increasing. The children will be learning to multiply and divide making use of these times tables and solve 2-digit by 1-digit multiplications, e.g. 26×5 . They will understand that division is the inverse of multiplication and how once again multiplication facts can be used to solve division operations.

Computing

Following the use of a simple branching database to sort vertebrate groups, the children will create and interrogate a database that they created from facts about their class. They will use 2Investigate from PurpleMash. We end the half-term with a short unit on online safety.