



Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Year 3

With Christ as our guide, we inspire and thrive

Welcome: I wish you all a very warm welcome back and a happy New Year! I hope that you have enjoyed a restful Christmas break and are ready for the new term ahead.

A few polite reminders, PE takes place on **Tuesdays**, so children need to arrive in school dressed in their school PE kits. Please ensure reading records are in school every day for our monitoring. We encourage children to read daily at home, and it is a school requirement that children have **read 5 times per week**. Please enter a comment each time your child reads at home.

Home learning will now be set on **Wednesdays** and due the following week.

Religious Education: We start this term with Branch 3, Galilee to Jerusalem. The children will encounter Matthew's Gospel, and we will look in detail at his accounts of Jesus' life and what messages we can take from this scripture. The children will also focus on the Epiphany and learn what this entails. We then move on to Branch 4, Desert to Garden. This will focus on the season of Lent. The children will delve further into Matthew's Gospel and explore the events of Holy Week and the Last Supper.

Mathematics: Multiplication and Division, Length and Perimeter, Fractions, Mass and Capacity.

Writing: This term we will be using the following books in class to support your child's writing skills.

- 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura- historical narrative set in the Stone Age.
- 'Big Blue Whale' by Nicola Davies- information text about whales.

Composition:

- Plan writing by discussing the structure, vocabulary and grammar of similar writing
- Discuss and record ideas
- In narratives, create settings, characters and plot
- Use headings and sub-headings to aid presentation
- Group related ideas into paragraphs
- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors
- Compose and rehearse sentences orally
- Assess the effectiveness of writing

Handwriting and Presentation:

To continue to develop our handwriting making sure it is legible and joined correctly.

Spoken Language:

Listen and respond, build vocabulary, articulate and justify answers, participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play and debates.

Grammar:

- Expanded noun phrases
- Correct use of adverbs
- Use conjunctions
- Punctuate dialogue
- Fronted adverbials
- Use a or an accurately

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Spelling:

- Word list- Year 3 and 4
- Adding prefixes (un-, dis-, mis-, in-, re) to the beginning of root words.
- Contractions
- Homophones and near-homophones

Reading: This term we will be using the following books in class.

- 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes.
- 'This Morning I Met a Whale' by Michael Morpurgo.

Children in Year 3 benefit from being read to and listened to regularly. Please share books together at home.

Comprehension

- Draw inferences (inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions) and justify with evidence
- Identify themes and conventions in a wide range of books
- Discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
- Ask questions to improve understanding

Science: Magnets and Forces- different types of forces and how objects move on different surfaces. Light and Dark- the difference between light and non-light sources and explore the sun as a light source.

Computing: E-safety – Branching Databases – Programming.

History: Iron Age.

Geography: Climate Zones and Biomes.

Art & Design: Cloth, Thread and Paint.

Design Technology: Food Technology.

Music: Latin Dance (classroom percussion)- 'March' from The Nutcracker.

French: Epiphany- Animals- Carnival.

PSHE: Emergency Services- Worries- Personal Hygiene- Exercise-Time Management.

PE / Sports: Dodgeball-Tag Rugby.

Home Learning: Home learning will be set each week on Wednesdays via Google Classroom. Each week, children will be given:

- 1 Maths task
- 1 English task (this will alternate between grammar and reading comprehension)

In addition to, children are expected to continue their daily reading and to practise their times tables on TT Rockstars. Some tasks will be paper based, while others will be set through our online learning platform, IXL. Please make sure all home learning is finished and handed in by the following Tuesday. If it isn't completed, your child will be given time at school to complete it. We encourage the children to take responsibility for their own learning and do their best to complete it on time.


Home Reading: As well as set home learning, your child should also spend time each evening reading for at least 5-10 minutes. He/she will bring home a book from school. This book must be read as your child will have been assessed and set to match their reading band age. They may also read a book of their own choice from home/the library alongside this if they wish. Each child will also receive a reading record. The record should be filled in every time the child reads at home (minimum 3 x per week). This will be checked in school weekly so any parental comments can also be communicated here.

How you can help at home:


Teach your child that failure is a stepping-stone to success and make academic subjects feel relevant to your child. Try to involve games in learning as much as possible. Where possible, research some areas of learning as this will act as pre learning which will support your child being ready for the lessons.

- **Set a routine** – choose a regular time for home learning each day.
- **Create a quiet space** – free from distractions, with everything they need.
- **Encourage independence** – let them try first, then offer help if needed.
- **Talk about learning** – ask questions about their reading or maths.
- **Daily practice** – keep up with reading and times tables on TT Rockstars.
- **Praise effort** – celebrate persistence as well as correct answers.
- **Stay connected** – check Google Classroom/IXL together and contact school if needed.


Read to Succeed Reward System.



Bronze Star = 35 Reads
You've started your reading journey—keep it up!




Silver star = 70 Reads
You're halfway to greatness—amazing progress!



Gold Star = 95 Reads
You're a reading champion—golden level achieved!

Choose a book YOU love!
At the end of the year, your chosen book will be **gift-wrapped** and **personally presented** to you by **Mr McDermott** in a special celebration!



Work hard. Read lots. Earn your reward!
'With Christ as our guide, we inspire and thrive'.