



# HIGHGATE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Year 3 Class Newsletter Autumn 1

Dear parents,

Welcome to Year 3! We are so happy to welcome all the children back after the summer break: this will be an exciting year with fantastic topics.

#### Topic

Our topic this half term looks at the worlds of palaeontology and archaeology, with a focus on dinosaurs and Earth's early human inhabitants. The children will study the dinosaur age, exploring what the earth looked like, what lived at the time and how to identify the different kinds of dinosaur. They will learn about how we know about dinosaurs and how we have made deductions about the lives of Stone Age and Iron Age human from clues they left us.

This topic is one of a series of historical units that places periods of history in the context of time. It's a firm favourite among the children.

#### English: writing

We start the half term by looking at non-chronological reports about a dinosaur species, including writing a 'Spotter's Guide to Dinosaurs'. We'll discuss a wide range of non-fiction books about dinosaurs and identify how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning. We'll then move on to stories with historical settings by reading 'Stone Age Boy' and writing our own prehistoric tales. We will discuss how differences in time and place are represented and record ideas when planning, writing and drafting stories, creating settings, characters and plot that evoke daily life during the Stone Age. Our final unit will have a poetry focus. We will recognise some different forms of poetry and associated language features (e.g. expanded noun phrases, word play, alliteration, onomatopoeia) and write our own dinosaur poems. The children will be taught spelling strategies to support their learning of spellings.

#### English: reading

The Highgate Primary Reading Adventure will continue in Year 3 with 20 new and exciting texts especially chosen for them to read at school. In addition to this, the children will encounter a variety of different text types through the day. The children will also have a reading for pleasure book, which they will be able to take home and return to school. Please ensure that your children look after books that are borrowed from the class library.

The expectation for home is at least 20 minutes of independent reading per day. Research has repeatedly shown that children who are read to by an adult benefit hugely from the experience – both cognitively and with their well-being.



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## Maths

In maths this half term, we will be focusing on a solid understanding of the number system including place value and the manipulation of numbers through addition and subtraction.

We will be sending your child home with details about Times Table Rockstars and My Maths. Some children may already be familiar with these sites, but all will be using them regularly in Year 3 and beyond.

## PE

This year, the children will have two PE lessons a week.

3NM: Mondays and Thursdays

3LJ: Thursdays and Fridays

As per our school policy, children may come into school wearing appropriately sporty clothes (**and trainers**) on PE days and will not be asked to change. Or, they may bring a PE kit and change if they prefer.

## Music

Hilla will be working through contemporary styles of music this half term, starting with Reggae. For a more in-depth look at our curriculum, please check the website.

## Labelled clothing and lost property

Please make sure all clothing and water bottles are labelled.

## Break time snack

Now that your child is in year 3, the school can no longer provide them with a snack to eat at break time. Please send them in with a snack from home. Our school policy is fresh fruit or vegetables only.

## Homework

Homework will be set on Fridays and completed no later than Thursday the following week. The children will complete homework in their green homework books, or it will be set on Google Classroom.

Google Classroom logins will be sent out soon but will be the same as last year.

## Important Dates for Autumn 2023

Yr3 Parents' Meeting	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 3pm
Natural History Museum Trip	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Celtic Harmony Trip	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Half Term	Wk bg: 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023
Parental Consultations	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023
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With best wishes,

Natasha, Louise, Julie and the Year 3 team



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