



# Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

September 2016

Dear Parents

We are writing to outline some of the main points covered in the curriculum meeting for Year Three parents.

Curriculum Content	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Science	Animals Forces and magnets	Rocks Plants	Plants Light
Design and technology	Mechanisms	Packaging	
RE	Religious teachings and books	Journeys and special places	What is important to myself
Geography		Locals study and geography skills	South American and Fairtrade and geography skills  Disasters and geography skills
History	Stone age / iron age	Local history	
PE	Outdoor adventurous activities  Dance	Gymnastics  Invasion games Catchball / hockey	Net games Rounders  Swimming / athletics
Computing	Bring it to life	Games in a new world	Move it sort it
Art	Investigating patterns	Dreams	Sculptures
Music	Exploring	Exploring	Exploring

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Somerset Total Communication



Member 2015-2016

	descriptive sounds / rhythmic patterns  Compose - Beethoven	arrangements / pentatonic scales  Comoser - Beethoven	colours / singing games  Composer - Beethoven
French	Greetings	Numbers and colours	Dates, days of the week, pets, brothers and sisters

## English

The children have weekly English lessons on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These lessons consist of vocabulary extension work and spelling. Sentence work; grammar, sentence structure and punctuation; text work where they read, write and discuss a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays.

On Thursdays the children have a focused punctuation lesson followed by an extended writing lesson. During extended writing the children are given the opportunity to write for longer periods of time and are encouraged to use skills learnt in English and punctuation lessons within this extended piece of work.

Speaking and listening skills are also developed through drama work. The children have specific handwriting lessons three times a week.

English work covers

<u>Fiction</u>	<u>Poetry</u>	<u>Non-Fiction</u>
Stories with familiar settings Adventure and mystery stories Authors and letters Dialogue and plays	Poems to perform Shape poetry and calligrams Language play	Reports Instructions Information texts

## Maths

The children have maths lessons on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The first twenty minutes of the lesson concentrates on mental and oral work with the whole class. On a Tuesday part of the mental and oral work will included a times tables challenge.

The children may then work individually, in pairs or in groups for the main part of the lesson. They then come together for a plenary session at the end of the lesson.

Maths work covers:

1. Place value
2. Addition
3. Subtraction
4. Multiplication
5. Division
6. Fractions
7. Geometry and shape
8. Statistics
9. Time and measurement

## Design and Technology

'Packaging' looks at how different types of packages are constructed. We look closely at the information displayed on a number of different packages, including fonts and illustrations. This project concludes with the children designing and making their own package.

'Mechanisms' looks at how we can create movement using cams and axles. During the project the children are able to practise using tools such as saws, drills and glue guns. They then use these tools to help them make a moving wooden toy.

## Geography

During our work on South America and Fairtrade the children explore banana plantations within a South American country. They find out about how the bananas get from the country of origin to our shops. We explore whether the farmers get a fair deal.

During our local study we will look at where we are in the country, what the village is like and the main land uses. Included in this unit of work are geography skills such as map reading.

## History

The children study the Stone Age and the Iron Age, exploring the work of archaeologists before moving on to look at places such as the Neolithic settlement Skara Brea in Orkney and Stonehenge.

When working on our local history topic the children will be finding out about the village of Dunster and making links with the local geography work undertaken in the second half of the spring term.

## Computing

Our first unit of work is entitled 'Bring it to life', during this unit of work the children learn to place commands into a computer program in order to achieve a specific outcome. They spend time finding out how to add sounds, how to use functions such as repeat commands and will be given time to test their program and debug it as necessary.

Our second unit of work is called 'Games in a new world' during this unit the children will use software to invent a world by creating and colouring backgrounds. They will add objects to the world created and instruct the objects to interact with other objects.

Our final unit of work 'Move it and sort it' finds the children building and programming robots. During this unit of work they will spend time improving and adapting the sequence of instructions that they input.

Within all three units of work the children will be taught about the importance of e-safety.

## Art

During our work on patterns we search for patterns within the environment; we look at the work of the Victorian artist William Morris and create our own repeating patterns by cutting and sticking shapes as well as printing patterns.

When working on the dreams art unit of work we study the work of selected artists such as Salvador Dali. During this work we experiment with mark making with different materials to create a number of effects.

## SEAL

The children have a twenty minute SEAL lesson a week, which during the year cover seven areas:

1. New beginnings
2. Getting on and falling out
3. Say no to bullying
4. Good to be me
5. Going for goals
6. Relationships
7. Changes

## French

During the Autumn Term your child will be learning key conversational vocabulary, such as how to say hello and goodbye. They will be learning how to ask someone their name and how they are feeling today and of course will be learning how to reply to these questions.

During the Spring Term, children will be focussing on colours, numbers, and birthdays. They will be able to ask questions and give answers about colours. They will learn to ask how old someone is, when their birthday is and be able to give an appropriate response.

During the final term of the school year, children will be learning the days of the week and months of the year. They will be focussing on learning about home life, talking about any pets they may or may not have. They will learn vocabulary about the family, and be able to ask if someone has any brothers or sisters.

## Music

During the Autumn term, children will be exploring descriptive sounds and patterns. They will be composing pieces of music that best fits in with the movements of animals, composing and making their own pieces based on a fictional creature that they have created.

During the Spring term, children will be using instruments to explore arrangements and pentatonic scales. They will be developing their ideas of how instruments can work together in arrangements, following patterns.

During the Summer term the topic is exploring colour. Children will be able to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical

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instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression, based on the theme of colour and how colour could affect the mood of the music.

Over the course of the year, children will be learning about the life and some of the works from Beethoven, from the classical period.

## RE

We start off the year by looking at sacred writings including the Bible and the Koran. In this topic we consider why religious teachings and books matter to Christians and Muslims.

Our topic in the spring term studies the rites of passage in the journey of life, including baptisms and weddings. This also looks at pilgrimages made by Christians and Muslims.

We look at the Easter story through the "Stations of the Cross."

In the summer term we study "What is important to me?" to develop their appreciation of people's personality, beliefs and feelings. This allows them to reflect on how they feel about things and their relationships.

## PE

In the autumn term we start with Outdoor Adventurous activities to develop their ability to use orienteering and problem solving skills through treasure hunts and physical challenges.

Our dance and movement encourages children to create and perform increasingly complex moves as individuals, pairs and in groups.

In the spring term we will be concentrating on gymnastics in which we will explore jumping, balancing, transferring weight, rolling and turning. This will be carried out both on the floor, mats and on a variety of apparatus.

Our Multi-skills games lessons look at tactics and skills involved in invasion team games such as catchball and hockey.

In the summer term we will concentrate on net games, including tennis. Our striking and fielding games will look at the skills needed in rounders.

Our athletics lessons will introduce the children to the skills needed in the running, throwing and jumping events.

In swimming the children will continue to develop their confidence in the water, as well as their ability to swim a variety of strokes.

## Science

In the autumn term we study animals. Looking at their diets, skeletons and muscles to see how they get their nutrients in different food groups and how they move.

Our topic on forces and magnets helps children to understand different materials and how they behave with each other. We look at various types of magnets and their uses.

They will have the opportunity to test the strength of magnets by devising their own experiments.

In the spring term we look at different types of rocks and soils. Seeing how they are used and classifying them. Finding out about rocks that contain fossils and how soils are formed.

Our topic on plants looks at the different parts of a flowering plant and starting to understand how they differ from animals because they form their own food. We will carry out a variety of experiments with growing plants and look at their life cycle.

In the summer term we will explore light, looking at mirrors and shadows. Developing their understanding of the sun and looking for patterns in their investigations.

### Homework

Homework is a very important part of the children's learning and reinforces what they can do at school. For children in Year Three homework consists of;

1. Reading every night or as often as possible
2. Weekly spellings
3. Maths work based upon work they have been doing in class
4. Other homework related to any of the above curriculum subjects

\*Please encourage the children to practise their recorder regularly as part of their homework. The children need their recorders in school for a lesson on a Friday.

### Attendance

Please inform the school if your child will not be in school for any reason. Unauthorised absences will be noted and kept on your child's records. The curriculum is very detailed and your child cannot afford to miss large parts of it.

### Buses

For those children travelling on the bus it will always be assumed that unless they are attending an after school club or Monstas they will be going home on the bus. If there is a change in circumstances we ask that parents either write a letter for the class teacher or telephone the school office.

### Clubs

Year Three children are fortunate to be able to attend:

Football club on Thursdays with Mr James

Tennis club on a Wednesday with Simon Barmby-King

Film club on a Thursday with Mrs Vickery

Catchball Club on a Thursday with Mrs Vickery and Mrs Lancaster

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After school 'Monstas Inc' will be available to the children from Monday to Friday.

Please ensure that PE kits are in school on Thursdays for lessons and for any clubs attended. Please ensure that tape is provided to cover earrings if they cannot be removed.

### Special Year Three activities

During the year the class will have the opportunity to go out of school as part of our history, RE and art topics. More information will be given out nearer the time.

### Medical problems

Please inform the school if your child has any short or long term medical problems such as food allergies or asthma.

### Finally

We encourage Year Three children to be more responsible as junior members of the school and to set a good example to the other children.

We aim to develop the children as motivated and enthusiastic learners. If you have any concerns about your child or would just like a chat to see how things are going please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Thank you to those of you who attended the meeting or who gave their apologies. We hope that the meeting was informative.

Yours sincerely

Nic Gray      Denise Lancaster