



Year 3 Newsletter

Emersons Green Primary School
Autumn Term 1 2011

Dear Parents / carers,

Welcome to Key Stage 2 and Green Class. As your child's new class teacher, I look forward to getting to know your child and to meeting you soon, if I don't know you already. In the meantime, if you feel that there is anything important that I need to know about your child in order to help them settle quickly into Year 3, then please let me know by either writing a note in the home school diary or by catching me at the end of the school day. There will also be an opportunity to meet at the 'Meet the Teacher' session planned for after school on 8 September.

I will be teaching the class full time, supported by Mrs Weaver and Mrs Everson. Mrs Knapp will be teaching the class science on Monday afternoons to cover my PPA time.

The children have been issued with new home school diaries if needed. It is not necessary for them to hand these in to us everyday, unless they have a message from you, in which case there is a tray in the classroom. However, the children should bring their diaries to school each day in case I need to write a message for you. Please make sure that the children have any **inhalers** in school and that they show them to us so that we can arrange for them to be kept in a safe, accessible place.

Curriculum

Our topic this term is a history based topic called 'Groovy Greeks'. Any research that your child can do on this topic at home is always welcome in school and will be celebrated in class. During the first week or so of term we will be engaging in lots of PSHE work, focussing on teamwork, co-operation, relationships, manners and organisation to ensure that we all work well together at school. We are also considering how to be a 'Successful Learner' and a good 'Learning Partner'.

The literacy focus this term is punctuation: full stops, capital letters, speech marks, question marks, exclamation marks. The numeracy focus is number bonds, alongside memorising times tables.

We have many rewards in Green class, which I am sure your child will tell you about as they are introduced. These are balanced with an agreed charter of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the classroom and around the school. We have written this together so that all the children understand the expectations of behaviour.

Water Bottles

Please make sure that your child has a water bottle in school. Children will be allowed to fill these up in the classroom and therefore leaving lessons to go for a drink will be unnecessary and not allowed. Your child will be allowed to go to the toilet when necessary, although they will be encouraged to go at break times to avoid missing learning time.

Homework

Homework will be given out weekly. This will usually be set on a Wednesday and any work returned by the following Monday will be marked. It would be great to see your child engaging with these tasks at home, with your support. When the children have completed their homework, they should bring it into the classroom, where they will put it in the homework tray.

Reading

As the class teacher, I will hear your child read weekly during Guided Reading sessions each afternoon. The children will also continue to have colour banded reading books to bring home for extra reading practise. We hope that you will be able to find the time to read with your child at home, regardless of their reading ability and all children should be encouraged to read something daily. When your child has finished a reading book, they will be allowed to change it themselves during early morning bell work. It is your child's responsibility to remember to do this and if you find that they are forgetting then let me know via the home-school diary and I can also help them to remember.

Spellings

The children will be given some spellings to learn every Thursday and these will be tested the following Thursday. These will normally be based on the spelling rules that we are learning as part of our Literacy work. Since the main focus should be on learning the rule, the children may also be tested on some additional words to test their knowledge of the rule. In Year 3 we run some additional extension or support Literacy programmes, such as 'Quest' and 'Letters and Sounds' and your child may receive spellings particular to these programmes instead of Thursday spellings. Separate letters will be sent home if your child is going to participate in Quest sessions.

Class Groupings

In Year 3 the children will have lots of opportunities to work within a variety of class groups. The children sit within a mixed ability group with a Learning Partner, where they can share ideas and co-operate together for foundation subjects and these will change termly. We have ability groups for Literacy and Numeracy activities, which have been organised following detailed discussion with the year 2 teachers. This enables me to differentiate appropriately for the level they are working at. Each group will be guided at different times in the week by myself or other school staff to extend and support. There will be lots of other opportunities where the children are able to work with their own choice of group, including in some literacy and numeracy lessons. This will provide your child with a wide variety of learning opportunities and extend their social skills and co-operation. These groups are also flexible and will be changed if necessary, depending on how well the children are working together or achieving.

Times Tables

The children will have weekly times tables tests in the Juniors every Monday beginning with the revision of the 2, 5, 10, 3 and 4 times tables or the related division facts e.g. $3 \times 2 = 6$, $6 \div 2 = 3$. Once they have achieved 9 or 10 out of ten they will automatically move onto the next table or division facts, allowing them to move on at their own pace. We will also practise these regularly during Numeracy lessons.

PE

Our PE lessons are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. I hope to be outside for PE as much as possible so please can you make sure children have daps or trainers in their PE bags also. We will start swimming in term 4.

We hope your child will be very happy in Year 3 as we work together to meet their individual needs. If you feel able to support in any other way at school, such as listening to readers, please let me know. Any offers of help are gratefully received. Finally, it would be lovely to have some pictures of the children out and about over the summer holidays for a display – please send some in if you can. Also, advance warning that after half term I'll be requesting that each child brings in a shoe box for a project, so you might like to hang onto one now!

Best wishes,

Mrs Emmeline Smith and the year 3 team.