

Class 3

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Welcome to Class 3 and to another school year.

We hope you have all had a fantastic summer! We're looking forward to meeting you and telling you all about life in Class 3 at our curriculum information meeting on Tuesday 12th September just after 3.15pm in Class 3.

If you have any questions, you can always come and talk to us in class 😊

Miss Connell and Mr. Jones



Term 1 Topic: *Under the Sea*



In their 'Under the Sea' topic, the children will begin by locating and naming all of the world's oceans and continents and looking closer to home to locate and map UK seaside towns using an atlas.

The children will also learn about the many animals that live under the sea and how they are adapted to survive as the ocean gets deeper and deeper.

Later in the term, they will study the heroic actions of Grace Darling and learn about the importance of the people who can help us at sea. At the end of the term the children will explore the history of the British seaside and how it was made popular by the Victorians.

In Literacy, the children will begin the year by consolidating their previous learning on word classes and extending it to write imaginative setting descriptions based on an underwater scene full of ocean life. They will also discuss ideas from the under the sea themed picture book 'Flotsam' by David Wiesner, using inference skills to understand the thoughts, feelings and actions of the characters.

In art, the children will turn photos of themselves into scuba divers to make our classroom really look like it is under the sea. They will also create a large group piece, using newspaper modelling and papier-mâché to create a large underwater creature.

The last few weeks of term will see the children writing non-chronological reports (fact file pages) for their favourite sea creature, following our trip to the Birmingham *Sea Life Centre* on Thursday 5th October - letters about this trip will follow shortly.

Other subjects ...

Numeracy: In term 1, we will start by learning more about the days and months of the year before developing our place value and calculation skills. The children will end the term by learning more about fractions and data handling using simple pictograms and bar charts.

Science – ‘Forces and Magnets’: The children will explore forces and magnets by comparing how much force is needed to move an object across different surfaces and exploring how magnetic forces can act at a distance. They will observe how magnets can attract or repel each other and they will test a variety of materials and sort them according to whether they are magnetic or non-magnetic. They will also be able to describe magnets as having two poles and link this to an understanding of the Earth’s magnetic poles.

Art and DT: As well as the topic-themed art above, we will also be exploring healthy lifestyles and sports to create our next art board.

Computing: In term 1, we will focus on computer skills and internet safety including using safe search engines.

RE – ‘Christianity’: In RE, the children will learn about Christian beliefs and places of worship as well as discussing what is important to them and understanding why something else may be valued by others.

Helping your child at home ...

Spellings: At the beginning of term, the children will be tested on all of the spellings that the National Curriculum recommends should be known by Year 3. We will then be able to send home spellings as appropriate for each child, either to consolidate these spellings or to begin practising the spellings recommended for Years 3 and 4. They will give them out on Fridays and tested the following Friday.

Times Tables: The children will be tested on their times tables and related divisions facts knowledge every Friday. They are given 2 minutes to answer 30 questions. We call it ‘Snappy Maths’ because the children have all been given a crocodile which moves up our display to catch more fish each time they pass. Over the last couple of years the children have been really motivated by this and it insures that it is kept informal and fun. By the end of Year 3 it is expected that children should know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables.

Reading records: In order to gain their reading certificates, the children need to be reading 5 times a week. We check the reading records on Monday mornings. If the reading record is not in school or has not been handed in for any reason, we will check it the following Monday and we will make sure we count the missing week.

Homework: In line with government guidelines, homework will only be sent home when we feel that it is meaningful and manageable for all children. This will be in the form of a learning log or a piece of maths or literacy homework about once or twice per half term (not every week). Tasks should take no longer than 10-15 minutes (slightly longer for a learning log) to complete and the children should be able to attempt them independently.

Class 3 information ...

Class 3 have a busy and exciting year ahead of them with many trips and in-school visitors planned:

- **Trips:** Birmingham *Sea Life Centre* on Thursday 5th October (letters to follow shortly).
- **PE:** PE kits, including warm outdoor clothing and trainers, will need to be in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- **PPA:** Children will have P4C and PE on Wednesday afternoons during PPA time.
- **Parent Share:** Class 3’s first parent share will be on Friday 20th October (the last day of school) at the end of the day. Information will be sent out nearer the time to confirm timings.