

Class 3

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Welcome back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and managed to have lots of fun over the holidays! I am really looking forward to teaching all the children to Year 3 and helping them make the important transition into Key Stage 2.

We start the year with our 'Under the Sea' topic where we will be studying everything about the weird and wonderful world within the deep, blue oceans!

Mrs. Byrne



Term 1 Topic: *Under the Sea*



To begin our 'Under the Sea' topic, we will be making a splash as we take part in a range of fun water-themed science experiments! Children will use their enquiry skills to find out what happens when you mix water with different liquids and materials. Pupils will also learn about the science behind submarines when making their own cartesian divers!

Children will develop their geographical knowledge this term as they learn to locate and name all of the world's oceans and continents. Turning the classroom into a giant map of the world, children will navigate the oceans and seas in teams, solving clues to reach their final destination! We will be studying places closer to home too, locating UK seaside towns using an atlas.

Pupils will learn about the many animals that live under the sea and how they have adapted to survive. Later in the term, they will study the importance of the people who can help us at sea and how they can personally make an environmental difference to our oceans.

In literacy, the children will begin the year by consolidating their previous learning and extending it to write imaginative setting descriptions based on the text 'Dolphin Boy' by Michael Morpurgo. Pupils will use a variety of drama conventions to develop a deeper understanding of the text and to support their writing.

The last few weeks of term will see the children writing amazing non-chronological reports (fact-file pages) about their favourite sea creature.

Other subjects ...

Numeracy:

In Term 1, we will start by developing our place value skills. The children will then recap their understanding of the addition and subtraction calculation methods.

Science:

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. They will test a variety of materials and sort them according to whether they are magnetic or non-magnetic.

Art and DT:

This term, the children will be creating their own sea-life pop art based upon the work of American artist Andy Warhol.

Computing:

In Term 1, pupils will be creating a simple animation using Scratch software. They will use a paint tool to create their ocean-themed characters and backgrounds. Then they will make a storyboard and translate this into a series of scripted instructions for their animation.

RE:

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 assessed on all of the Year 2 common exception spellings that the National Curriculum recommends. After this initial assessment, we will begin to focus on spelling patterns using the fun 'Read, Write Inc.' spelling scheme. **There will be a spelling test every Friday.** Please see the 'Class 3 Spellings – Term 1' document for more information.

Times Tables:

The government have introduced an electronic times tables test for Year 4 children. For more details, visit <https://matr.org/blog/times-tables-test-parents-guide/>. To help children to prepare for this test, we will run a similar style of times tables practice in class. Each week, the children will use the 'Learn with Emile' app on the iPads and try to improve their times tables skills. **There will be a times tables test every Friday.** Please see 'Class 3 Times Tables – Term 1' document for more information. By the end of Year 3, it is expected that children should be able to recall the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables.

Reading Records:

In order to develop and improve their reading ability – and gain their reading certificates – the children need to be aiming to read 5 times a week. We check the reading records on Tuesday mornings.

Learning Logs:

In-line with government guidelines, homework will only be sent home when we feel that it is meaningful and manageable. This may be in the form of a learning log where the children have the opportunity to create a topic-based piece of work from home.