

CLASS NEWS Year 3

Autumn 2, 2020

R.E. Come and See

Our RE topics link to many themes that are covered in Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE). We usually begin with a discussion that includes some aspect of PSHCE.

The RE topics are taught over a 4 week period on a daily basis. Our current topic is 'Promises'. We have talked about how to make a good promise and also about keeping promises. Our discussion led to making sure our promises were safe and had positive outcomes. This discussion has led into the Sacrament of Baptism and the order of the ceremony. To date, Year 3 have learned about the Easter Candle, the font containing the Holy Water, the role of parents and godparents, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism.

Homework Folders:

When a new mathematical concept or strategy is being taught in Year 3, I endeavour to inform parents of the method of teaching. To date there are information sheets relating to the use of a number line to add or subtract. The information sheet is a visual representation which helps children of this age understand the strategy so that they can use this strategy mentally when adding or subtracting simple numbers.

Year 3 are currently learning about the concept of multiplication. Without an understanding of what multiplication means, the times tables facts mean very little which in turn makes it harder for children to commit the facts to memory; they become in effect, numbers on a sheet of paper!

We have so far worked on understanding multiplication as repeated addition and then moved on to understanding how we can group the repeated addition as a short cut. Therefore, $3 \times 2 = 6$ means 3 groups of 2 altogether is 6 which in the real world according to children means 3 bags with 2 sweets in each bag equals 6 sweets altogether! Some children grasp this understanding relatively quickly, other children need regular reinforcement and consolidation before the 'penny drops'.

The children also have a spelling strategy poster, in their folder, which they completed in class. The strategies are designed to help commit spellings to memory. Some of these strategies build on Year 3's phonic knowledge. Spellings need to be learned for life therefore I would recommend encouraging your child to use the strategies.

Accelerated Reader:

Please check your child is reading 20 minutes per night. As soon as they have finished their book, they can take the quiz at school and select a new book within their book band.

Seesaw

Thank you to parents who have activated their Seesaw account. If you have yet to activate the account, there is an information sheet in your child's folder. This is an alternative communication method along with emails to school or telephoning school.

The first half-term has been a tough one for Year 3. Their transition into the Juniors has been compounded by an unprecedented length of time off school and social restrictions. On a positive note, the class as a whole, are now behaving and working more like a Junior class! There is still more training to do but I have seen real progress in the first half-term. I would have to say the one thing that I find most helpful when establishing rules within the classroom and teaching this age group about social, behavioural and organisational expectations along with the responsibility for learning, is the support of parents. Thank you to you all for training your child to put their homework folder, planner, P.E. kit and anything else in their school bag! It's the first step towards independence and towards your child developing an excellent work ethic for the future! School is the first working relationship your child experiences therefore establishing routines, nurturing commitment and a readiness to try new learning experiences lays the foundation for later life.

Thank you once again,
Mrs Ogdon.