

# GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to Key Stage 2 and welcome back to a new school year! I am looking forward to getting to know your lovely children this year. The purpose of this letter is to share with you an outline of the learning that your child will be involved in over the course of this term.

Our new topic for the term is '**Early Man: Stone to Iron Ages**' and it will be taught across the whole curriculum. The children will be asked what they would like to find about this period which I will then use to shape my planning.

In **English** we will begin the term by learning how to write a story with a historical setting. We will be using the book '*Stone Age boy*' as inspiration for our stories. As always, children can get many of their creative writing ideas from the books they read so please encourage your child to read as often as possible at home. This genre of writing will give the children a chance to get their imagination fired up as they further develop their language, sentence, grammar and punctuation skills.

In **Maths** children will be building on their understanding of place value using addition and subtraction, measuring lengths, mass and volume. They will build on the multiplication and division facts that they know and progress to using formal written methods. Children will be working on improving the speed and accuracy of their mental maths. To support pupils at home, children should practice their multiplication tables, number bonds and mental calculations. The children focused on their 2, 5, 10 times tables in Year 2 and they must now master the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

In **Science** we will cover two units of work; 'Rocks and Soils' and 'Magnets and Forces.' We will be investigating the properties of rocks and looking at the formation of fossils for links to the past. In 'Forces and Magnets' we will learn about different types of forces. We will also investigate the strength of different magnets and find out which materials are magnetic. We will carry out a range of exciting investigations and we will continue to work closely with our new Scientist Meg in lab 13.

In **Geography** we will be using maps to discover the location of settlements and historical sights of Early Man, which will combine itself with grid referencing in Maths. We will also link Geography and Science with our unit on rocks and soil.

**Religious Education** will focus on Places of Worship. We will explore a range of places of worship for different religions and will learn about their different uses, including some key external features of the buildings. We will consider what different religions think about god.



**PSHEEC** (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education and Citizenship education) Children have already agreed their classroom rules. The importance of following rules both in class and outside will also be discussed. We will also consider 'friendship' as a theme, 'looking after myself' (in relation to germs and hygiene) as well as how to deal with unhelpful pressures.

**Music** will be taught on Wednesday mornings by Orlando.

**PE** will be every Monday and Friday afternoon. All children must have a change of clothes for them to wear for PE – especially appropriate footwear. They cannot do PE in boots! PE kits can be brought in on Mondays and left on coat pegs in the cloakroom for the half term and then taken home for washing.

**Reading** is a key skill and children should be encouraged to read every day and fill in their reading records. Children are expected to bring their reading records to school every day. Both children and parents are encouraged to write comments and reflect on their reading. Book bags should be brought to school every day. **Please keep the reading diary with the book bag at all times. I will be looking at the diaries at least once a fortnight and writing a comment of my own following Guided Reading.**

**Homework**-Year 3 Children will have times table practice and spellings to learn which will be tested in school each week. Homework will be given out on a Friday and needs to be handed in by Wednesday. **Spellings will also be set and tested on a Friday.**

I try to book a variety of trips and visitors in order to enrich the children's learning experience. Please look out for letters and let me know if you are available to accompany us 😊

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions please make an appointment for after school and I am happy to discuss any concerns or thoughts you may have. I look forward to a happy and successful term of working together with you and your child!

Kind Regards,

Lauren

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Year 3 Class Teacher



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