



Puffins Class - Year 3

Spring 2018

January 2018

Hello parents and pufflings,

Welcome back to the new term and Happy New Year! I hope you've all had a fabulous Christmas break and are refreshed, ready for the new learning ahead.

Our new and exciting topic – **SPACE AND ROBOTS!** We will start to consider key questions such as:

- ❖ Are we alone?
- ❖ How big is space?
- ❖ Tim Peake, Katherine Johnson or Galileo?
- ❖ How could a robot contribute to your life?

WOW moments and events to look forward to...

- ❖ Planetarium visit – space dome!
- ❖ Space flight – whole school project to send a balloon into space
- ❖ Parent Consultation Week (5th – 9th February)
- ❖ World Book Day (5th March)
- ❖ Literacy Parent Work Shop – check the school website
- ❖ Maths Parent Work Shop – check the school website
- ❖ Science Fair (22nd March)

We ♥ Literacy!

We will kick-start the term with some tanka poetry inspired by visuals, written texts and the BBC Ten Pieces' classical music and sound tracks. To develop our understanding of SPACE, we will immerse ourselves in the language of the solar system and robots. Our writing skills will be broadened to apply precise and scientific vocabulary discussed and generated in class, coupled with extending our punctuation choices to add meaning and effect for the reader. Please take a look at the class display and School Literacy webpage for useful tips and ideas to help support your child at home for more details of the term curriculum. Please look on the class web page for more examples of inspiration.



We are continuing to build on our reading skills: retrieval, inference and interpretation (evaluation) in our daily whole class guided reading sessions. We will be sharing more texts, and NEW for this term will be non-fiction texts, linked to our new writing focus.

I have noticed that the children that are confidently able to express their ideas and understanding are those that read daily. Therefore, please read with your child on a daily basis to ensure that they are practising and developing this wonderful skill, which will take them forward throughout KS2 and beyond. If you are looking at new books to engage and excite your reading at home, please feel free to borrow a book from the School Library or Class 3 Book Corner. Alternatively, click on <http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/> to be inspired.

Sharing your reading progress and fun at home...

Please continue to use the red Home School Diary to note the book title, book level (if there is one), page or chapter numbers with a signature after each read. This will be checked regularly with brief comments and suggestions noted to help your reading and rich discussions at home – in the diary or face-to-face. Excitedly, the children have said that they would like the 'Reading Raffle' to continue, so to have the opportunity to be awarded a NEW book, keep reading and record the comments 5 times a week.

Let's be marvellous with maths in MMXVIII (2018)!

This term will be practising our understanding of maths symbols (\times , $-$, \div , $<$, $>$ and $=$), language (equivalent, quotient and sum) and applying our calculating skills with a real context, linked to topic. We will be revisiting Number Sense, Additive Reasoning and Multiplicative Reasoning, but new maths learning will be fractions and measurement. Remember to keep looking at the class webpage for examples of learning, videos and helpful hints.

We will spring and dive into our P.E. learning this Spring!

P.E. will continue to be on both **Wednesday and Friday** each week. To ensure that we get the maximum enjoyment and learning from our activities, ensure that your child has ALL the correct P.E. kit for each session with their kits in class EVERY MONDAY. Swimming is NEW for this term and will take place for the first part of the Spring term each Friday. Please refer to the PE email reminder that was sent at the end of the last term. However, if you would like a reminder, please see the parents' notice board. P.E. kits will be sent home each Friday for the new week ahead.

Calling all Super Learners! Are you a Home Learning Hero?

We have been practising our times tables skills, but this term we will start to practise a task learnt in class. The nightly home learning will take place up to four times a week and must be brought back into class and glued into the maths book ready to review together or individually with me or Mr Martin. This task is to help develop maths understanding and independence.

General reminders:

There is a **parents' notice board** in the cloakroom area and there is also an open-door policy from 8:40am. However, it's essential that the children are ready for their learning by the second bell at 8:50am, when the learning will commence promptly. A gentle reminder that children are expected to bring a warm winter coat, wear no hair products, fancy hair accessories, no nail varnish, long hair needs to be neatly tied back and sensible shoes are a must – especially for our Daily Physical Activity (DPA) activities. Also, they will need to have their Woolacombe School water bottle in class – only water. If you need a new one, they cost £1 and can be purchased online. You can also purchase Woolacombe School backpacks. Please order online.

Furthermore, I will continue to regularly update the Class 3 webpage with curriculum updates, weekly learning foci, termly spelling words and some Home Learning task instructions – ideal if any important paper correspondence gets lost! However, please remember to visit the school website, <http://www.woolacombe.devon.sch.uk/> for exciting workshops and events, such as reading and grammar workshops.

Thank you for your continued support and let's make this term FANTASTIC!

Sam Simpson (Year 3 Class Teacher) and Nigel Martin (LSA)