

Welcome to 2024 in Year 3! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed seeing in the New Year. We are sure the children are raring to go for what should be a fun packed term of activities. This term we focus on the history of early mankind from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age.



## Stone Age to Iron Age

### History and Geography

Our main topic is Stone Age to Iron Age, understanding how life changed during this time. Using different sources of evidence, the children will learn about the first settlers in Britain and how they lived. They will learn about key settlements of the Stone Age, looking at how the people of the Stone Age moved around the world, where they eventually settled and why. They will also learn to recognise some physical geographical features, for example, rivers and mountains.

### Art and Design & Technology

In art, this term the children will be using sculpting skills to design and create a Stone Age style pot, learning about different ways to mould and shape clay.

In Design and Technology, the children will be using their textiles skills to design and make a Stone Age inspired gathering pouch, developing stitching and joining material skills.

### Maths

Having extended their understanding of all four operations, the children will now build upon these through application in problem solving in a number of contexts. Children will further develop understanding of telling the time to the nearest minute (a sometimes tricky subject). The more you can practise reading an analogue clock at home, the better! If you need some guidance, please do not hesitate to speak to us. The children will also be learning about key units of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years). Measure is another focus, with the children measuring and calculating length, mass and capacity accurately. These are all skills which you could practise at home. The children will also be working with money and applying their calculation skills.

They will be extending their understanding of fractions, calculating fractions of amounts and adding and subtracting fractions within a whole.

Children will be continuing to work on the four times tables this term whilst starting to learn the eights. During lessons children will explore both multiplication and division in a variety of ways to help ensure that they have a deep understanding of the number facts.

### English

The children will write in a range of genres including narratives, diaries, poetry and instructions. As writers, the children will extend understanding of the effect of their writing through the use of adverbs, appropriate vocabulary choices and expanded noun phrases. They will write different types of sentences and recognise the need for accurate punctuation and spelling. Please encourage your child to develop their vocabulary through regular reading at home, discussing the meaning of new words.

Weekly guided reading will continue to take place where your child will develop core comprehension skills.

### Music

The children will explore how untuned instruments can be used to create interesting compositions based around the life of a hunter-gatherer. They will try to match the timbre of the instruments to the topic given.

### French

Throughout the term, the children will learn numbers 11 to 31 and be introduced to the days of the week and months of the year. They will continue to carry out simple conversations and learn how to write these using basic phrases or sentences.



### Science

In Science, the children will be learning about the properties of different rocks and soils. They will continue to work scientifically through close observation, practical investigations and classifying different samples of rocks and soils. They will also learn how fossils are formed and how soil is made.

### Computing

Throughout our computing sessions, the children will carry out efficient internet searches using keywords, while continuing to practise how to save their research to the school network. They will then learn how to create a multimedia presentation using the program Microsoft PowerPoint. Typing skills will also continue to be practised.

### Life Skills

The children will learn to recognise reasons for conflict and develop some strategies to help resolve these. They will explore their feelings and consider how words can affect other people. Also, they will learn about rules and laws. The children will begin to consider how the media influences people and develop an understanding of stereotypes and learn ways to challenge these. Finally, we will explore understanding risks, dangers and hazards and how negative pressure can put them at risk.

### RE

This term, the children will continue to learn about the Christian faith through reading Bible stories, including a number of the parables such as The Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son. They will explore the purpose of these stories and the impact on Christians' lives. They will then learn about other Christian teachings in order to discuss the theme of kindness.

### Homework

Ideally children should be reading with an adult at least three times a week at home. Even those who are confident readers benefit from this as it helps with expression, comprehension and enjoyment. Please record this in their green reading record book. Please remember that, alongside regular reading, a maths task is allocated on a Friday using the MyMaths website. Children are also expected to carry out regular practice of times tables at home. This might be through games, recitation, songs or on-line games. Please contact us if you would like a list of suggestions to help you support your child at home.

### PE

The children will develop their skills of dribbling and passing the ball in football. They will work together to devise simple games to practise and begin to think about attacking and defending strategies.

Gymnastics will focus on improving body control when jumping, rolling and balancing, combining moves to make short sequences.

Our creative dance unit is based on our Stone Age topic. Children will learn to respond to stimuli to create different phrases of movement, which can be linked to make a dance.

Our PE days will be Monday and Wednesday. As the months are colder please ensure your child has the correct clothing for both indoor and outdoor sessions. Please refer to the uniform policy to help you with this and make sure that complete PE kits are in school at all times, **including socks**.

### HELP NEEDED

**Do you have hand-sewing experience?  
Could you spare some time to help out?**

We need some volunteers to help with our gathering pouch project in the classroom. For more information please email your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support in the first term with reading. We can really see the difference in children's confidence and use of skills.

If you would like to have a discussion with either of us about your child, please email on [miss.coulson@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:miss.coulson@greattotham.essex.sch.uk) or [miss.read@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:miss.read@greattotham.essex.sch.uk) or make an appointment via the office.

Miss Coulson, Miss Read and Mrs Pyman