



ANCIENT EGYPTIANS

YEAR 3 2023-24



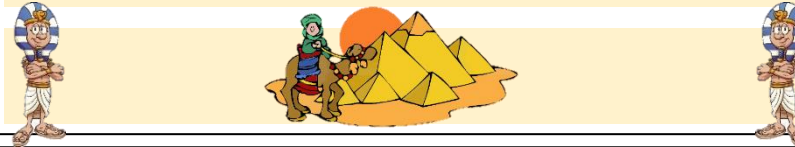
Welcome to Year 3! We are really excited to start this new year and we hope the children enjoy learning about our interesting topics as much as we have enjoyed planning them! Miss Coulson, Miss Read, Mrs Meadows, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Pyman and Mrs Reid.

English: Each week, there will be a guided reading session, where children will work in a group to read and discuss a text. This is a great opportunity to improve understanding of what has been read, the meaning of new and more challenging vocabulary, and hopefully to continue to develop a love of reading. After each session, they will have a short independent task to complete. There will also be lots of reading activities to help children improve their writing by looking at what authors do before trying to use some of the techniques in their own writing.

A key focus for the written work in English will be on developing ideas through expanding nouns, making sure that sentences make sense and that they are accurately punctuated with capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, inverted commas (speech marks) and commas in lists. We would also like children to try hard to learn and apply the spelling strategies that they are taught. Children will be writing: descriptive poetry, fabulous fiction (traditional tales), diary entries and persuasive letters.



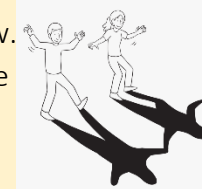
Ancient Egypt: This is such an exciting topic! We will be journeying back in time to the ancient lands of the Egyptian pharaohs. During our topic, the children will learn about the importance of the River Nile, daily life in Ancient Egypt, tombs, pyramids and mummification. We will also look at the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb as well as finding out about the Rosetta Stone and hieroglyphics. We will learn how historians have used a wide variety of historical evidence to piece together our understanding of this amazing civilization.



Maths: Children will learn more about place value extending to numbers up to 1000. They will be taught formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with numbers up to 1000 as well as continuing to build fluency when calculating mentally. They will also explore fractions, learning how to recognise equivalent fractions and finding fractions of amounts. At home, children could play lots of games which involve counting and number skills (e.g. shut the box, dice games, hit the button etc.).

Science: Children will learn about different types of flowering plants, their life cycle (including parts of a flower, seed production and dispersal), how water is transported through them and what plants need to grow.

Also this term, they will be learning about light and shadow. Through investigations, they will discover how shadows are made, what objects reflect light and how the size of shadows change.



Computing: Children will begin the year developing their understanding of the importance of E-safety. We will focus on staying safe whilst on the internet, stressing the importance of being careful in this fast changing cyber world. They will then learn how to create a simple program to control an on screen 'turtle'.

We will also be practicing the key skill of touch typing this term. Pupils will use a variety of different programs, including Microsoft Word, to present their ideas.

PE: PE days are planned as Mondays and Wednesdays. However, there are occasions where this has to change so we recommend PE kits being kept at school for the whole week. This term we look at tag rugby and basketball skills, building passing accuracy, control of the ball and some simple game play. In dance, we will be learning some country dances and our gymnastics work will focus on improving body control when jumping, rolling and balancing, combining moves to make short sequences.

Life Skills: As children begin Key stage 2, we will spend time helping them to embrace change and transition. Following this, we will look at the meaning of community. We will then look at how to handle friendship issues and discuss ways of encouraging positive relationships and dealing with influences and pressure. We will also learn what a balanced healthy lifestyle is and build knowledge about hygiene. Finally, we will find out about diversity and explore different customs and traditions.

RE: This term, children will be exploring how some people express commitment to their religion, looking specifically at Christianity and Islam. They will also learn about the Christmas story and the importance of this time of year to both Christians and non-Christians.



Music: In music, the children will listen to a variety of garden and flower inspired pieces of music from different periods, learning about the different musical elements. They will also learn how to play simple tunes on the glockenspiel focusing on the notes: c, d, e and f.

Languages: In Year 3, children begin to learn French. We will start by teaching children how to introduce themselves. Parents, please prepare yourselves for your children to be asking how you are, what your name is and perhaps even how old you are – in French of course!



Art: Children will learn how to improve sketching techniques through close observational drawing of plants, focusing on using different tones, shades and textures to add detail. After mixing colours to understand how primary and secondary colours can contrast and complement each other, they will look at the application of powder paint to create washes for a background to silhouetted Egyptian landscapes. Hopefully, the work of Kevin Roach and Leonardo da Vinci will help inspire the children to produce great pieces.



DT: In the build up to Christmas, we will carry out a gift box project where children will design, make and evaluate their own gift box. Maybe it will come in useful for that special something at Christmas!

Reading and Times Tables: Knowing the times tables and related division facts for the 2, 5, 10, (the school's Pascal level certificate) and 3, 4, 6 and 8's (Newton level certificate) are key objectives in Year 3, please practise these at home. We can help by providing some additional handouts if you require them. Likewise, reading regularly at home is vital to making improvements, becoming more confident and helping with writing skills. Remember to encourage children to read and re-read their practice books to build fluency but don't forget it's also really important to choose and share other books with friends and family!

Homework: Alongside regular reading, a maths task will be allocated on a Friday using the MyMaths website. These will be tasks which will improve children's mental maths strategies and support learning in class. We will be sending instructions and logins for this shortly. 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. We will send out a list of suggestions for this in due course.

Parents, as always, we are available to discuss your children's needs: please feel free to contact the office for an appointment or to arrange a telephone call. We are also available on email (miss.coulson@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or miss.read@greattotham.essex.sch.uk), but if you have an urgent query please contact the office in the first instance. We appreciate that moving to KS2 can be a big step for the children and we are here to support in any way we can.

The Year 3 Team