



February 2009

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the half-term holidays, we are starting to think about our Learning Theme for the new half-term...

MAIN LEARNING THEME – ‘Town Planners’

This is a Geography based unit which focuses on developing an understanding of how a settlement can begin and then continue to develop and change over the course of many years. Year 3 children will be studying the Gunthorpe area, since it is the locality of our school.

With this in mind, most of our learning will be based on this theme so we will be studying areas such as:

- developments, including building projects and how the land use may have changed, in the Gunthorpe area over time
- how the lives of the residents may have changed as the area has been developed
- researching what historical and geographic knowledge there is of the area
- questioning people from the Gunthorpe area about its past
- imagining that the children are planning a new town, taking into account locality and amenities
- writing and presenting reports about residential areas
- map reading and drawing
- properties of materials
- drawing views and scenes

A part of this learning theme, it may be possible that children will need to walk around the local area to research local amenities. We may have local residents to visit the school to discuss their views with the children. It may also be possible that we have a visit from an estate agent and / or visits from amenities providers like the water board or gas / electricity suppliers.

If anyone has any information or relevant experience linked to the history of the local area, or any links to amenity providers that they would be willing to share, please let us know

LEARNING SKILLS – ‘Knowing me, knowing you’ (Developing a Sense of Self Worth and Understanding of Self and Others).

The main focuses will be linked to:

- 1) *Recognising feelings and understanding emotions* – learning why others may feel the way they do in a variety of contexts, expressing emotions and feelings with confidence and identify reasons they feel that way, showing an understanding and respect for other’s feelings by the way the behave towards them and identifying ways to be kind to others.
- 2) *Developing a positive sense of one’s self* –developing a range of strategies that help keep the children calm when they feel under pressure.

NUMERACY

The main objectives are as follows: number work, calculations, problem solving, shape, measures and data handling. We will also be focussing on mental maths and times tables (mainly 3, 4, 6 and 8 time tables). For more detailed information about the specific learning objectives for Year 3 Numeracy, feel free to browse the website:

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primaryframework/mathematics/planning/Year3>. We will be working on **Block C2 – Handling Data and measures (wk 1)**, **Block D2 – Calculating, measuring and understanding shape (wk2 & 3)**, **Block E2 – Securing number facts, relationships and calculating (wk4, 5 & 6)**.

LITERACY

The effects of ‘Read, Write Inc.’ have been phenomenal and as a result of this, the majority of Year 3 children will begin to study Literacy using the National Literacy Framework. (If your child is continuing with ‘Read, Write, Inc.’ we will discuss this with you). This will mean that most children will stay with in Year 3 with Mrs Tilson and Miss Odain for their Literacy lessons. We will continue to have a lesson each day and this will link to areas within our Learning theme. The areas of the National Literacy Framework can be viewed at:

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primaryframework/literacy/planning/Year3> .

We will begin by learning about a familiar area of literacy - **Narrative Unit 4 - ‘Authors and Letters’**. Further on into the half-term, we will move onto - **Non-fiction Unit 1 - ‘Reports’**. We will be learning to write and read non-chronological reports – such as information texts, fact books, information fliers and particularly estate agent reports - since it will link into our theme of **‘Town Planners’**.

SPELLING

Most of the Year 3 children have also started a ‘Read, Write Inc.’ Spelling programme. This involves developing an understanding of how spelling works and will need an element of support from home as there is a Spelling Log that the children will be encouraged to keep up-to-date each week. We will organise a session where Parents / Carers will be invited to come and ask any questions relating to how we will be teaching spelling and how to support your children with the Spelling Log. An additional letter will be sent to confirming the date and time.

ICT

Our learning this term will involve the children using ICT to design and model their plans for their imaginary town. They will also use ICT for data handling and research.

PE

PE will continue to be on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. Please remind your child that they should bring their PE kit into school on a Monday, **leave it in school all week** then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kits in school. Can we remind you that school rules state that for the safety of your child, earrings need to removed for PE (which needs to be done by themselves) or plasters (provided by home) need to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to tie it back if it is loose on that day.

READING

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home. We will be continuing to encourage the children to write their own comments in their reading record books. After they have read, they could write comments such as: what they enjoyed about their reading, what part of their reading they found interesting, what they have learned through their reading, any new words and meanings they have discovered or any questions or difficulties that they have.

HOME LEARNING

Learning opportunities over the holidays may include:

- *discussions with your child and family members about the area around our school,
- *visits to see estate agents (maybe looking at the houses through the window, or even venturing in if you have the time and inclination)
- *finding out about new developments in the Peterborough area.

We had a great half term learning about **'Life in India'** and we would like to thank all those of you that have helped to make the learning theme a success.

We wish you a lovely half-term break,

Mrs Tilson, Miss Odain, Mrs Coolbear and Mrs Reynolds