

**Autumn Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

My name is Mr Malplaquet and I have joined the Firbeck team this year in our Year 3 class. I am so looking forward to meeting you all over the course of the academic year and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, let you know how the children’s first week back has been and provide you with an overview of what we will be studying this term.

The children have had a fantastic first week back, they have settled back into school routines quickly, working hard and creating a very positive and mutually supportive learning community. We have studied two stories in English, revisited some basic mathematics skills and engaged in a wide range of creative and social activities.

This half-term we will be studying a range of topics in English, Maths and Science as detailed below.

**English**

To start the term in English, we will be studying the book, ‘Dancing Bears’ by Michael Morpurgo. Morpurgo is a wonderful writer and this story is a touching exploration of the friendship between a girl, Roxanne, and an abandoned bear cub. We will use this text to develop the children’s non-fiction writing skills, writing setting and character descriptions and formal letters. Later in the term, we will be studying the Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy and Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl.

**Maths**

This term the maths curriculum will cover number and place value, addition and subtraction. This is a really important unit as number and place value provides the foundations of the children’s mathematical knowledge and will continue to be applied across the rest of the school year. In year 3, the children start to develop and embed their times tables knowledge in preparation for the Year 4 times tables test. The children will learn their 3, 4- and 8-times tables in addition to the 2, 5 and 10 which they should have learned in Year 2. We encourage children to continue to embed their timetables knowledge using Times Table Rockstars as much as possible because a secure knowledge of these facts assists across the maths curriculum.

**Science**

This term, we will be studying the topic of light in Science. We will learn about different light sources, reflection, sun safety, how shadows are formed and investigate patterns in the way shadows change size.

**Reminders**

PE will be Tuesday (Dance) and Thursday (Gymnastics) afternoons, please ensure that the children have their PE kits on these days. We would really like the children to read at everyday (either independently or to an adult). We will be monitoring reading diaries and rewarding the children with prizes. We would like reading books and reading diaries to be in school every day, once we return, so that adults in school can also hear them read.

If you have any questions at all do not hesitate to email me. My email is odemalplaquet@firbeck.org.uk. You can also send me a message on Class Dojo.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Malplaquet

Class 3 Teacher