



# Topic Learning Letter

Year Three Autumn Term

<b>Topic</b>	<p>Our topic for the first half term is <i>Down Under</i>. We will be learning about the continent Oceania, focusing on Australia. We will explore the variety of different landscapes, cities, lifestyle, and the First Nations of Australia, which we will then compare to England and English communities. We will also use maps and atlases to locate and compare distance between Europe and Oceania.</p> <p>After the half term break, term is <i>Sticks, Stones and Bones</i>. We will be learning about the Stone Age by acting as historical detectives, using evidence from the past to aid our understanding of what life was like thousands of years ago. We will also put our learning in context by finding out about the Bronze and Iron Age then placing events on a timeline.</p>
<b>Launch and Land</b>	<p>We are launching our first topic with a surprise delivery in the school office. We will receive a bag with unusual travel tags on. They children will need to explore the bag to find out who it belongs to and why it has been sent to us. We will be learning an Australian traditional song and undertaking research on the iPads.</p> <p>We will land out topic with an assembly to which parents are invited.</p> <p>We are launching our second topic with some wonderful genuine stone age artefacts. This will set the tone for becoming prehistory detectives for our Stone Age learning. We will land our topic in the forest with a variety of activities and with our DT construction topic.</p>
<b>English</b>	<p>We will begin by reading and writing our own animal poems linked to Australia. We will also be reading tales from <i>Stories from a Billabong</i> by James Vance Marshall. We will be writing our own lost and found stories using the tale of <i>How the Kangaroo got her pouch</i> as inspiration. As part of our non-fiction unit, we will be writing discussion texts to decide whether Jim Kanga should move to the UK or remain in Australia. In our guided reading sessions, we will enjoy reading <i>Stig of the Dump</i> by Clive King during the first half term, and <i>Wolf Road</i> by Prof Alice Roberts. During these sessions, we will read as a whole class, with our partners and individually. We will also find out more about the story by delving into the vocabulary and answering comprehension questions.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>This half-term we will be focusing on place value; reading, writing and ordering 3-digit numbers, partitioning numbers to find different patterns and ways of making these numbers, identifying the value of each digit in 3-digit numbers and making numbers with a variety of resources. Additionally, we will learn to count in multiples of 100, 50 and 25 and continue to practice previously learnt times tables (2s, 5s and 10s). Please continue to encourage your child to practise these tables at home, ideally a few minutes each day. This might be on TTRockstars, Hit the Button, or other games/strategies that work for them. Learning those times table facts make a huge difference to maths fluency.</p> <p>In the second half term we will be focusing on using bar models to help solve tricky addition and subtraction word problems as well as using formal columnar methods. The children will have lots of activities to help them learn their timetables and aid rapid recall. This practise will help the children as we move on to written methods for multiplying 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p>We are looking forward to our physics learning about light and shadows by carrying out scientific investigations. We will become experts at being sun-safe through experimenting with sunscreen and sunglasses!</p> <p>In the second half term we will be undertaking some biology related to the musculoskeletal system, learning about skeletons and muscles, their function within the bodies of animals, including humans.</p>

<b>History/Geography</b>	Our first topic is a geography one. We will be using maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries, their major cities, environmental regions and key human and physical characteristics. We will learn about the layers that make up our planet, touching on the role of the tectonic plates in earthquakes.
<b>Design and Technology / Art</b>	Our art unit this half term is printing. We are looking forward to exploring different patterns and linking this to First Nations of Australia art. We will explore the life of First Nations peoples, their cultures and their famous styles of artwork. We will use all of this information to help us create our own prints. The key vocabulary we will introduce during this unit is: pattern, shape, texture, graduation.
<b>Music</b>	This half term your children will be exploring different types of Australian music and instruments with Mrs Cass. In the next half term we will be exploring the sounds clocks make and what instruments we can use to best recreate it. We will be learning about crochets and how we can use them in our music.
<b>PSHE</b>	As we return to school, we understand the importance of feeling safe, happy and comfortable in our school environment. We will reintroduce the 'Zones of Regulations' with the children which includes looking at emotions, how we are feeling and strategies to support us when our feelings dip out of the optimum green zone. In addition, we will be completing friendship activities to get to know each other a little better. For the second half term, our topic is <i>Celebrating Difference</i> . We will be discovering how we are all different and learning about how we can always use kind words, pay each other compliments and include everyone in our games
<b>RE</b>	This term we will be learning about Rites of Passage and important life ceremonies. It would be helpful if photographs of children being christened, baptised or at a naming or welcoming ceremony could be brought in or, even better, emailed to the school office. Also welcome would be photos of 'joining' ceremonies eg: Brownie or Rainbow promises, Beaver/Cubs, Boys' Brigade or similar. Plus, other rites of passage: first day at school or nursery – events of importance which usually involve or infer a commitment to be made. Your help would be much appreciated.
<b>French</b>	This term the children will be learning to count to 10, say their age, hello and goodbye. There will be occasional French spellings coming home to learn.
<b>PE</b>	Swimming – the children will be swimming every Monday from 11th September. Children should come with their swimming trunks/costume under their uniform. They must have a swimming hat and trunks should be tight rather than of the 'board short' type. The children will be doing cross country in the first half term with Mr Gilkes. It might be useful to consider equipping your child with a pair of blue joggers. Trainers will be a necessity and children will not need plimsolls this half term. In the second half term, weather permitting, we will be enjoying sessions at forest school and Mr Gilkes will be teaching gymnastics.
<b>Reminders</b>	<p>All children should have a water bottle at school containing only water, and bring a healthy snack. If children bring in fresh fruit or vegetables every day during the week, they will receive a house point.</p> <p>Children will be bringing spellings home each week and will be tested in school the following week. Getting them all correct earns a house point. Please ensure that your child reads with you regularly each week. If their planner is signed and the page number recorded five times in a week in the reading column they will receive one house point and there is a termly Reading Challenge to gain Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates. Children who read at least five times a week <i>all year</i> will be presented with a book token in the last week of the year. We would also appreciate if parents would sign their child's planner weekly on the left-hand page too.</p> <p>Please do get in touch with your child's teacher if your child is reluctant to learn spellings or read.</p> <p>P.E. – Our P.E. day is Tuesday; please ensure all children's jewellery is removed (including activity trackers) and they come to school in P.E. kit.</p>

If you have any questions or concerns at all please talk to one of the Year Three Team.