

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year!

On Wednesday, Mrs Evans and I welcomed back a very (very!) keen Year 3 class who have been nothing short of perfect in their first 3 days of term. Their attitude to school and learning makes them a privilege to teach. I always enjoy the spring term; this is when learning 'clicks' and children continue to grow in confidence. Thank you for your support in the autumn term and I look forward to seeing everyone again at parents' evening in February (TBC).

Below is a brief overview of the learning in each subject area:

Subject	Key learning for the Spring term
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Our focus text is Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura. The children will be writing a portal story.- In the second half term, the children will study Big Blue Whale by Nicola Davies and write an informational text.
Shared Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The children will be studying the all-time classic, The Iron Man by Ted Hughes.- In the second half term, the children will read 'This Morning I Met a Whale' by Michael Morpurgo.
Mathematics	Children will be covering Multiplication and Division, Length and Perimeter, and Fractions.
Science	This half term the children will continue learning about Animals (including humans). They will then move on to learn about forces. Science is taught by Mrs Williams on Wednesday afternoons.
History	The Stone Age – changes from the Old Stone Age through to the New Stone Age.
Geography	Our World – focusing on locational knowledge
French	The children will continue to learn greetings, numbers, and colours in French. Taught by Mrs. Potts every fortnight.
Computing	Branching Databases
Religious Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How do Christians use the Bible to help them with their lives?- What do I think about Jesus and how is he portrayed in art from around the world?
Physical Education	Netball/mindfulness/handball/Boccia- Taught by Mrs. Moore on Thursday afternoons.
Art	Gesture drawing with charcoal – studying prehistoric cave paintings. Then, in the second half term, the children will be telling stories through drawing and making.
Personal Development	Keeping Safe / Rights and Respect
Music	The children will study 3 units this term: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Latin Dance (learning the ukulele)- 'March' from the Nutcracker- From a Railway Carriage

Reading

From Year 3 onwards, reading is taught every day as a whole class. In these sessions, each child has a copy of the same book and the whole class discusses it and answers questions together. This replaces the 'guided reading' session from Key Stage 1. Therefore, there will no longer be a weekly comment in children's reading records related to guided reading.

When reading at home with your child, please use the reading record to record any comments. Please ensure children have both their reading books and reading records in school each day. Mrs Evans and I aim to check reading records at least once every fortnight.

Homework

Homework will restart on Friday 5th January. Homework will be handed out each Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. Homework will consist of:

- A maths task that will be related to what has been taught that week in school.
- Times tables practice (via Times Table Rock Stars – more information to follow)
- Reading – to be done throughout the week and recorded via your child's reading record.
- Spellings – there will be 5-10 words linked to spelling lessons and/or learning in class. Spelling will be tested after 2 weeks. However, there will be a 'practice' test after 1 week to see how children are progressing.

All the information needed for each homework task will be outlined in the weekly round-up email that is sent each Friday and copied to the Y3 class page on the school website.

Times Tables Rock Stars plays a vital part in children learning new times tables. In the coming weeks, children will be introduced to the 3, 4, and 8 times tables. Please support your child to practice these as much as possible.

Equipment

- PE is taught each Thursday, so please ensure your child has their kit in school.
- Please ensure all clothing, particularly items of school uniform are named.
- Children will need a water bottle each day. This is to only be filled with water.
- Children in Year 3 do not need their own pencil case. However, children are welcome to keep them in their school bag to use during playtimes.

Communication

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the class email address (year3@hillside.cheshire.sch.uk). Keep an eye out on the Hillside Twitter page ([@helsbyhillside](https://twitter.com/helsbyhillside)) for what we have been getting up to, as well as the class page (<https://www.helsbyhillside.co.uk/class/year-3>) where the weekly roundup is also published.

Here's to a successful spring term!

Kind regards,

Mr Caldwell and Mrs Evans