

YEAR 3 SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

After a wonderful first term with Year 3, I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break and have managed to relax and spend some time with your families. I am really looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know each of you more. Going forwards this year, Mrs Burke will teach Year 3 on a Wednesday. We will be supported by Mrs Procter, Miss Fisher, Miss Mellor and Mrs Roberts.

Our classroom is a happy and caring environment where we support and encourage one another to achieve our full potential. We will always '**Love one another as Jesus loves us.**'

Listed below are some of the topics that we will cover this term.

English

At St Mary's CE we are creative and thoughtful writers! We want the children at our school to love writing, words and the English language. Throughout the Spring term, we will cover a range of text types including mystery stories, poetry, instructions and diary entries. We will also focus on writing a range of sentence structures and developing the variety of punctuation which we use.

Some of our targets are

- To extend the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions
- To proof read for spelling and punctuation errors
- To use adverbs e.g. then, next, soon

This term, we will continue to revisit punctuation taught in previous year groups to ensure consistency (capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas in a list, apostrophes to mark omission and singular possession in nouns). We will also discuss other types of punctuation we may come across in texts and we will build on recognising how to use inverted commas to appropriately punctuate speech.

Throughout Year 3, we aim to increase legibility, consistency and fluency in handwriting. The children have made great progress this term in their handwriting books and we will now focus on transferring these handwriting skills across all subjects.

Spelling is an important component of writing. Spellings are best learnt little and often rather than all in one go. In Year 3, spellings and a related spelling activity will be sent home each Wednesday.

Reading

**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.**

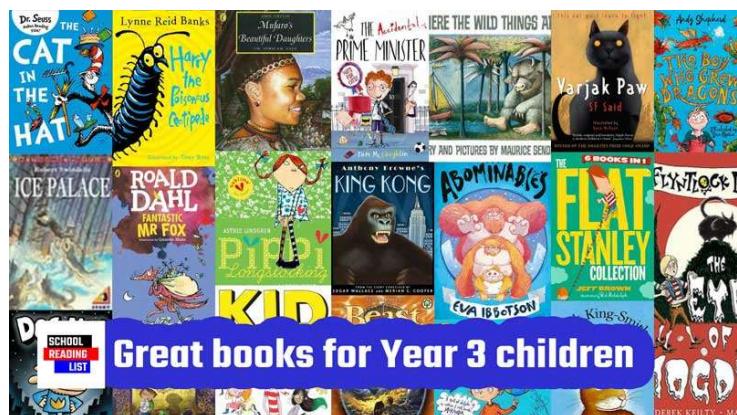
**The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**

-Dr.Seuss

The National Year of Reading 2026 has the theme 'Go All In'. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites and even audiobooks.

In Year 3, pupils should spend time reading for at least 15 minutes each day. There is an expectation of at least 3 recorded reads weekly.

- Children need to record what has been read and should collect NEW or INTERESTING vocabulary in the comment boxes. They should discuss the meaning of new words encountered.
- Please ensure that your child's green reading record is in school daily.



Maths

This term in maths, we will look multiplication and division, money, statistics, length & perimeter, and fractions.

It is imperative that your child continues to regularly practise times-tables and be able to recall them rapidly (x2, x5, x10, x3, x4, x8). It is also important that your child continues to develop their arithmetic skills.

To help with maths progress, they must know their times tables with confidence. Each child has an account for TT Rockstars which will help them to improve. The children should spend a minimum of 30minutes per week practicing.

TIMES TABLES

X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6
1x1=1 1x2=2 1x3=3 1x4=4 1x5=5 1x6=6 1x7=7 1x8=8 1x9=9 1x10=10 1x11=11 1x12=12	2x1=2 2x2=4 2x3=6 2x4=8 2x5=10 2x6=12 2x7=14 2x8=16 2x9=18 2x10=20 2x11=22 2x12=24	3x1=3 3x2=6 3x3=9 3x4=12 3x5=15 3x6=18 3x7=21 3x8=24 3x9=27 3x10=30 3x11=33 3x12=36	4x1=4 4x2=8 4x3=12 4x4=16 4x5=20 4x6=24 4x7=28 4x8=32 4x9=36 4x10=40 4x11=44 4x12=48	5x1=5 5x2=10 5x3=15 5x4=20 5x5=25 5x6=30 5x7=35 5x8=40 5x9=45 5x10=50 5x11=55 5x12=60	6x1=6 6x2=12 6x3=18 6x4=24 6x5=30 6x6=36 6x7=42 6x8=48 6x9=54 6x10=60 6x11=66 6x12=72
X7	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12
7x1=7 7x2=14 7x3=21 7x4=28 7x5=35 7x6=42 7x7=49 7x8=56 7x9=63 7x10=70 7x11=77 7x12=84	8x1=8 8x2=16 8x3=24 8x4=32 8x5=40 8x6=48 8x7=56 8x8=64 8x9=72 8x10=80 8x11=88 8x12=96	9x1=9 9x2=18 9x3=27 9x4=36 9x5=45 9x6=54 9x7=63 9x8=72 9x9=81 9x10=90 9x11=99 9x12=108	10x1=10 10x2=20 10x3=30 10x4=40 10x5=50 10x6=60 10x7=70 10x8=80 10x9=90 10x10=100 10x11=110 10x12=120	11x1=11 11x2=22 11x3=33 11x4=44 11x5=55 11x6=66 11x7=77 11x8=88 11x9=99 11x10=110 11x11=121 11x12=132	12x1=12 12x2=24 12x3=36 12x4=48 12x5=60 12x6=72 12x7=84 12x8=96 12x9=108 12x10=120 12x11=132 12x12=144

Science

In science we will look at the human body, our teeth and eating healthily.



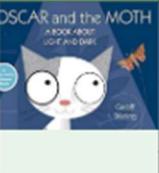
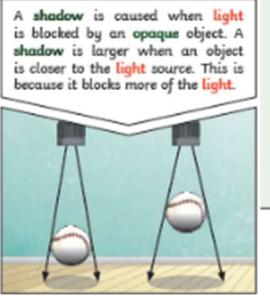
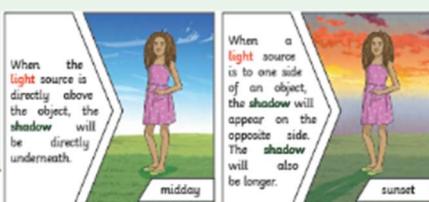
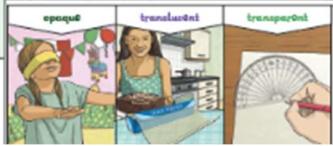
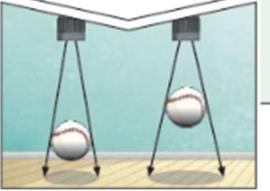
Year 3: Skeleton and Muscles Knowledge Mat (Biology)

(If you didn't have a skeleton, what would it stop you doing?)

Subject Specific Vocabulary		Interesting Books	Sticky Knowledge																								
pelvis	The pelvis is a bony cradle-shaped structure located at the base of the spine.		Animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition.																								
skull	The skull protects the brain.		Humans cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat.																								
joint	Areas where 2 or more bones are fitted together.		Humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.																								
tendon	Muscles are attached to the bone by tendons and work in pairs to allow for smooth movement.		I know that humans have three main types of teeth: incisors, canines and molars. I know their functions.																								
muscles	Muscles are attached to bones by tendons and help them to move. When a muscle contracts it gets shorter and pulls on the bone it is attached to.	<p>Interesting facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The spine is made up of 33 bones and the smallest bone is found in our ear. ■ When we are born we have about 300 bones in our body by the time we are adults we have 206 because some bones have fused together. ■ The longest bone in the human body is the thigh bone called the femur. ■ All foods contain nutrients which your body needs to stay active. 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nutrient</th> <th>Found in... (example)</th> <th>What it does/they do</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>carbohydrates</td> <td></td> <td>provide energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>protein</td> <td></td> <td>helps growth and repair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>fibre</td> <td></td> <td>helps you to digest the food that you have eaten</td> </tr> <tr> <td>fats</td> <td></td> <td>provide energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>vitamins</td> <td></td> <td>keep you healthy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>minerals</td> <td></td> <td>keep you healthy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>water</td> <td></td> <td>moves nutrients around your body and helps to get rid of waste</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Nutrient	Found in... (example)	What it does/they do	carbohydrates		provide energy	protein		helps growth and repair	fibre		helps you to digest the food that you have eaten	fats		provide energy	vitamins		keep you healthy	minerals		keep you healthy	water		moves nutrients around your body and helps to get rid of waste
Nutrient	Found in... (example)	What it does/they do																									
carbohydrates		provide energy																									
protein		helps growth and repair																									
fibre		helps you to digest the food that you have eaten																									
fats		provide energy																									
vitamins		keep you healthy																									
minerals		keep you healthy																									
water		moves nutrients around your body and helps to get rid of waste																									
skeleton	The human skeleton is made of bone and grows as we grow. Our skull protects our brain and our ribs protect our heart and lungs.																										
nutrition	Nutrition involves drinking enough water and eating the right amount of items from the four main food groups.																										
rib cage	It is made up of curved bones. The rib cage is found in the chest area. It protects a person's internal organs from damage.																										
spine	Also known as your backbone, your spine is a strong, flexible column of ring-like bones that runs from your skull to your pelvis.																										
teeth	Bony structures used to chew and tear food. Incisors 'bite and cuts' at food. Canines 'tear and rip' food. Molars 'crush and grind' food.																										



Year 3: Light Knowledge Mat (Physics) Can I leave my shadow behind?

Subject Specific Vocabulary		Interesting Books	Interesting Facts
light source	An object that makes its own light. The main light source for Earth is the Sun. Some other luminous objects give out light, for example, torches, candles and lamps.		The Sun and other stars, fires, torches and lamps all make their own light and so are examples of sources of light.
shadow	A shadow is formed when an object blocks out the light. The object must be opaque or translucent to make a shadow.		Our main source of light on Earth comes from the Sun. A ray of light travels very fast. It also travels in straight lines.
reflection	It occurs when a ray of light hits a surface of an object and bounces back into your eye.		Some objects like glass are transparent which means that light can shine through them.
transparent	If an object or substance is transparent, you can see through it.		Shadows are shortest at mid-day when the Sun appears to be directly overhead.
opaque	Opaque objects do not allow light to pass through them. In most cases creating a shadow.		Darkness is made by blocking light from the sun or some other source of light, which makes shadows.
translucent	Translucent objects allow some light to pass through.		A mirror is not a source of light it merely reflects light. Similarly, the Moon is not a source of light. It reflects the light from the Sun.
light	A form of energy that travels in a wave from a source.		Black and dark objects absorb light and heat whilst white or light objects reflects it.
dark	Is the absence of light.		
			

RE

In RE, the first term looks at What is it like for someone to follow God ?

Then in the second half term we look at the Islamic faith and the major festivals and worship.

What is it like for someone to follow God?

Year Three
Knowledge
Organiser

UNIT
19

Year Three - Knowledge Organiser

Wonderful words

Prophets: messengers sent from God

Abram: the Prophet who made a covenant with God who is later called Abraham.

Noah: the prophet who was told to build an Ark by God and who made a covenant with God.

Wedding: a ceremony when a couple make promises to be married and promises to God

Old Testament: the first 39 books of the Bible which tell about Creation and God's covenant with his people.

Promise: when you say you will do something

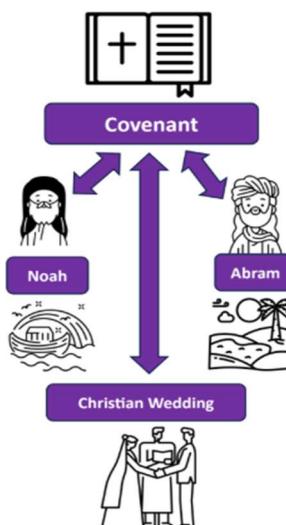
Abraham: the Prophet who made a covenant with God and who was told to leave there he lived.

Covenant: a promise made between God and Prophet Abraham for the people

Righteous: something that is good with God

Christians: religious people who believe Jesus is the Son of God who came to save them.

So how does it all work?



Important information

In the Bible the Old Testament teaches the story of the people of God and how they lived their lives.

There are many stories of prophets who brought messages to the people of God about how they should behave and the promise God makes with the people.

Noah was told by God to build an Ark as the people did not listen to God. When the flood arrived Noah took his family and the animals into the Ark. At the end of the flood God placed a rainbow in the sky and made a covenant with Noah that he wouldn't send another flood or destroy the earth again.

God also made a covenant with Abram who is also called Abraham. God asked Abram to leave where he was living and to move to the land that God would give him and his family. Abram did exactly as God had said even though it was not the easy thing for him to do even though it was the righteous thing for him to do.

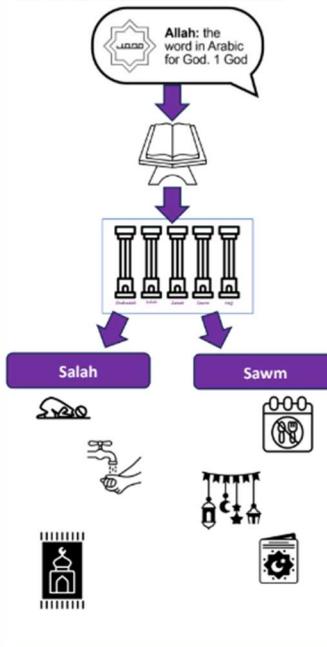
In a wedding ceremony Christians also make a promise to care and look after each other and they will make these promises in front of God which is also a covenant with him. The covenant made at a wedding is similar to the covenant with Noah in that the person is making promises to God and God is promising something to them as well.

How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?

Wonderful words

Prophet: a messenger sent from Allah
Muhammad: the Prophet who received Allah's message to the world.
Allah: God
Fasting: giving up food and drink for a religious observance
Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah to be made once in a life time if possible, this is the 5th Pillar of Islam
Qur'an: the Muslim holy book, for Muslims the final revelation from Allah
Salah: ritual prayer carried out 5 times per day, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam
Shahadah: The Muslim declaration of faith. It includes the beliefs that Allah is the only God, and that Muhammad is Allah's messenger.
Sawm: fasting from food or liquids during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan, this is the 4th Pillar of Islam
Zakah: giving of charity usually 2.5% of income, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam

So how does it all work?



Important information

The words Islam, Muslims and Salaam all share the same root SLM which means peace. Islam means to submit to Allah by trusting him with everything they have.

To help Muslims to know what to do they will read the Qur'an which was given to Prophet Muhammad on the Night of Power. The first chapter of the Qur'an tells Muslims all about Allah. The belief in the oneness of Allah is called tawhid.

This belief is also said by Muslims when they say the Shahadah, their statement of belief which is also the first of the Five Pillars of Islam. The pillars are actions Muslims try to complete to worship Allah.

One pillar is called Salah, and this is when a Muslim will pray five times a day facing the Kaba in Makkah. Another is called Sawm, and this is when a Muslim is fasting during the month of Ramadan, if they are able to.

Muslims will also give money to charity, and this is known as Zakah. This is 2.5% of their wealth and helps the poorest people in society. At least once during their lifetime a Muslim should go on a holy journey or pilgrimage to the city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia. All of the five pillars show that a Muslim is submitting to Allah by doing what he wants them to do.

© Copyright RE Today 2023 created in collaboration with Katie Freeman and Bickleigh Down Church of England Primary School. Licensed for use in schools who have a current NATRE Primary School Enhanced membership. Permission for use revokes upon membership lapsing/ending.

Geography

In geography we have a field study looking at Rivers and we look forward to our trip to Castleshaw on 12th February



Year 3: Are all rivers raging?

SUBJECT SPECIFIC VOCABULARY

estuary	An estuary is an area where a freshwater river or stream meets the ocean.
mouth	A river mouth is the part of a river where the river flows into another river, a lake, a reservoir, a sea, or an ocean.
source	The source of a river is where it begins, usually in high ground.
meander	A meander is a winding curve or bend in a river.
waterfall	Waterfalls form where water rushes down steep hillsides in upland areas and erodes the rocks.
erosion	Erosion occurs when the fastest currents in the river carve intensely into the banks.
deposition	rocks and sediments eroded from one part of the river is deposited in another part.
tributary	When one stream meets another and merge together, the smaller stream is known as a tributary.
valley	A long, low area of land, which has been eroded by water.
delta	Deltas are often found at the mouth of large rivers.
stream	A stream is a small body of flowing water.
evaporation	To turn from liquid to a gas.
condensation	small drops of water which form when water vapour or steam touches a cold surface.
precipitation	Rain, sleet, snow formed in the atmosphere by the water cycle.
water cycle	The journey water takes from land to sky and back again. Water never leaves Earth – unless it is on a space craft!



STICKY KNOWLEDGE:

Know how a river changes along its course.

Know why rivers are important to humans.

Describe the water cycle

Use points of the compass.

Use a key and coordinates

Name and locate some major rivers

BRITISH RIVERS:

England: Severn, Thames, Trent, Ure, Ouse, Wye
 Wales: Wye

Scotland: Tay, Clyde, Spey

N. Ireland: Bann

WORLD RIVERS:

Africa: Nile

Asia: Yangtze

Europe: Volga

N. America: Mississippi

S. America: Amazon

Oceania: Murray

EXCITING BOOKS



INTERESTING FACTS

- The River Thames that runs through London is 184 miles long.
- The River Severn is England's longest river at 220 miles.
- The River Amazon which runs through Brazil is 4000 miles long and runs through the Amazon rainforest.
- The world's longest river is the Nile which runs through Egypt and is 4160 miles long



Art and Design

In art and design we will become sculptors !

Year 3 - Sculpture and 3D



sculptor	An artist who makes sculptures.
structure	Parts arranged in a particular way, like a cardboard model.

Artist information

Anthony Caro
(March 1924 - October 2013)

- A British artist who made abstract sculptures.
- Used scrap metal and found objects.
- Some of his sculptures are colourful.

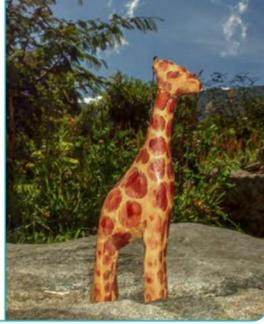
Ruth Asawa
(January 1926 - August 2013)

- An American sculptor who made wire sculptures.
- She was interested in the shapes created by space between artworks.

Abstract



Figurative



Positive space



Negative space



Design and Technology

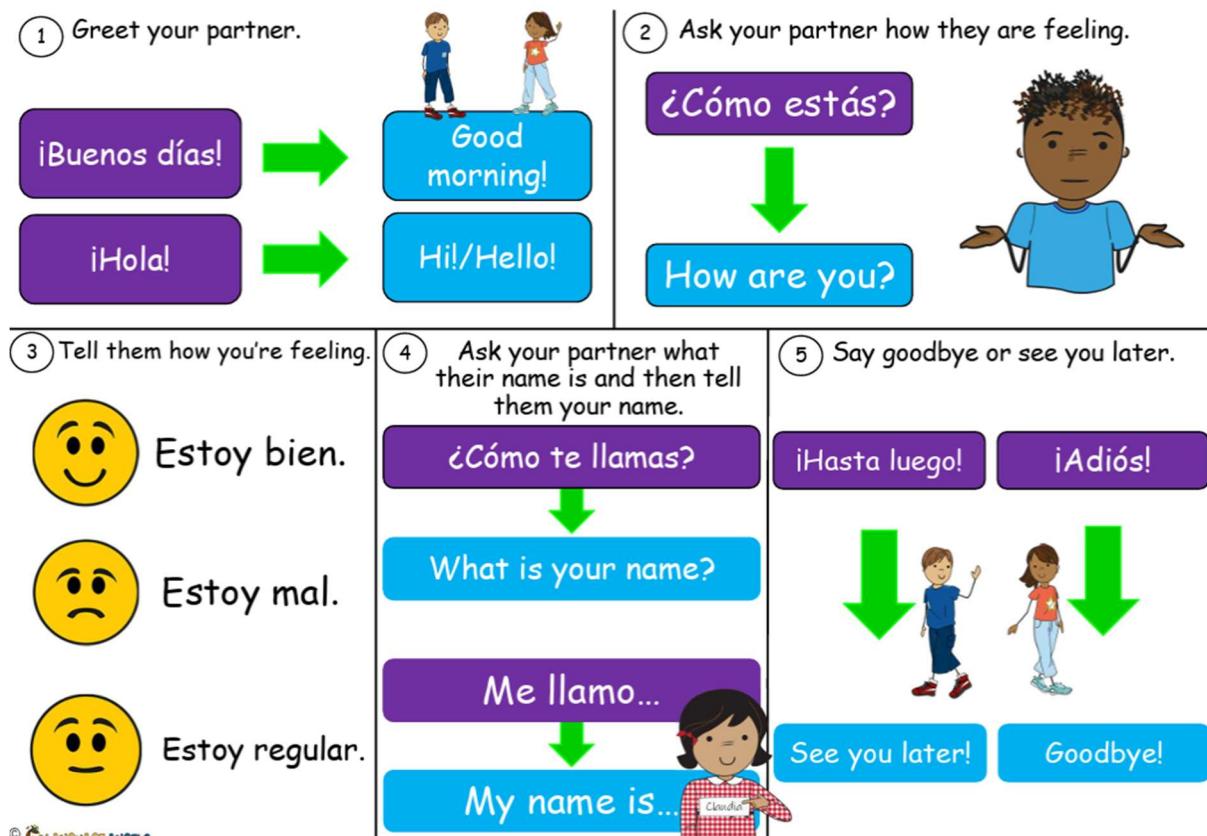
In DT, we will be looking at Food and Nutrition. Together, we will explore a range of pre-packed sandwiches and their nutritional contents. The children will make a Healthy Sandwich to a given criteria.

Computing

In the Spring term, we will explore online safety, spreadsheets and coding.

Languages

At St Mary's. our chosen Modern Foreign Language is Spanish. We will recap our learning of phonics in Spanish and greetings. We will also now be learning about animals and instruments.



Music

At St Mary's CE we are Musicians! We want the children at our school to love music. We will continue to build on prior learning in music.



PE

PE is a part of the national curriculum and it is essential that children have the right kit for these lessons in order to participate. An indoor and outdoor kit (in a small, string kit bag) should be **in school at all times**.

KIT REQUIREMENTS – PLAIN WHITE T-SHIRT/POLO SHIRT, DARK BLUE OR BLACK SHORTS / DARK BLUE SKIRT / BLACK PUMPS / TRAINERS / WARM OUTDOOR (hoodless) TOP

We will tell your child when they should take their kits home to be washed.

Homework

In Year 3

- 15 minutes daily reading and discussion of text. Children to record in green reading record newly discovered vocabulary or interesting words and discuss their meanings. At least 3 recorded reads per 7 days.
- Learn weekly spellings and complete a spelling related activity (test each Wednesday and new spellings are given out on the same day.)
- Times Tables Rock Stars - 30 minutes minimum each week.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: Please check the school websites regularly

www.stmarysceccrompton.oldham.sch.uk/

Look for the learning pages / class pages / Year 3 for updates on homework, messages for the children and other reminders.

If you have any questions, please come and speak to me before or after school or contact the office for an appointment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Mrs Hepworth and Mrs Burke

‘Love one another as Jesus loves us.’