**Welcome to Class 3!**

We have been very excited to start the new year and meet all your lovely children and the first few days have been great. We are Miss Kilbane and Mrs. Rankin. Miss Kilbane teaches on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs. Rankin teaches on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The teaching assistants Mrs. Gough and Mrs Tuxford will also be working with our class at various times during the week.

**Forest School**

Our sessions will be on Tuesday afternoons for this term. Please send your child with the following - plastic bag with a pair of old trainers / wellies, a pair of old tracksuit bottoms, an old jumper/hoodie and waterproofs for when it is wet.

**PE**

Sessions are on Thursdays and Fridays. Children should come to school in their PE kits on both days. Please could children with long hair bring hair bobbles or, preferably, have their hair tied back on these days. With earrings, if the children cannot remove them themselves for the session, could they kindly not wear them on PE days. If this is not possible, please send in tape/plasters for the children to wear over the earrings for that session

**Uniform**

A general note to say please make sure all items of clothing, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats, are named. We are not able to get it back to the rightful owner as easily otherwise.

**Water bottles and snacks.**

Please ensure that your child brings water in their labelled drinking bottles and that they have a healthy snack for morning and/or afternoon. If they bring it in a snack pot, please ensure these are named. No crisps, chocolate or sweets please.

**Curriculum**

**Maths**

Learning follows the White Rose Maths scheme, which ties in with the New Primary Curriculum. Key mathematical concepts covered this term include: place value, problem solving and times tables.

**English**

Our English work will be inspired by our history project on the Ancient Maya Civilisation. Our writing and comprehension work will be mainly based around books and videos linked to the topic but we will also have discreet grammar and punctuation lessons. The focus will be on using more exciting and varied vocabulary, using paragraphs and headings to organise our ideas, using a more extensive range of conjunctions and beginning sentences in different ways. We will also look at building complex sentences and using commas to correctly punctuate these.

**Reading**

Diaries have been sent home for you and the children to begin using. Each time you read with your child at home, please write the details on the right side of the double page spread. If staff are reading with them, this will be done on the left side. If a parent reader volunteer reads with your child in class, we'll ask them to write and sign on the right - the same side as you - so that it classes as a parent read. It is expected that the children read at least 3 times a week which will help them earn their reading reward, details of which will follow soon.

**Spellings**

Each Monday the children will be shown a new list of ten spellings. These are differentiated according to the children’s learning needs. They will then be tested on them the following Monday. We have sent out a list of the spellings for the whole half term on Yammer as well as a paper copy. To cut down on paper, we will not issue weekly paper lists. The sheets we have sent out have all the spelling lists for the next 6 weeks, with the dates of the tests at the top of each list.

**Topic**

We are starting the term with learning about the Ancient Maya Civilisation.

This is a fabulous topic with a History/Geography focus where we will be learning all about the major achievements of the time period, as well as looking at the houses they lived in, the tools they used, the jobs they did and the foods they ate. This topic will also enhance the children’s skills in map reading, using atlases and finding information in non-fiction books.

**Science**

Our science this half term will be about animals including humans. We will be looking at what animals need to eat in order to live healthily, nutritional values, how skeletons differ in animals and what they are for, as well as muscles.

**Art and Design:**

The children will be studying the art of the Maya people and we will be using different media to create Maya masks and geometric patterns.

**Computing:**

This half term we will be looking at computer programming and learning how to input controls into the computer to get it to do what we want (coding). We will be using the Purple Mash app for this.

**RE**

This half term we will be exploring the big question ‘What can Christians learn from the Creation story?’.

**PSHE**

The focus will be on the first of our whole school themes for the year, Health and Wellbeing; this includes learning about Healthy Lifestyles, Growing and Changing and Keeping Safe. Later in the term, possibly during Autumn 2, we will be starting our Young Leaders Award journey. Further communication about this will be made with you as and when we begin the programme. It is a wonderful project produced by The Archbishop of York Trust. The children will receive workbooks, pencils and special badges as they begin this exciting work.

**French**

This half term we will be learning our numbers 1 – 20 and our colours in French.