



Welcome to Starfish Class



Spring 1 2023

Happy New Year! We hope you've had a great holiday and are ready for another busy term. This newsletter aims to set out the key information to be shared about this half term. We will keep you up to date about any extra information on our class page and through text messages.

Our learning in January and February:

Following on from our Anglo-Saxon unit in Autumn term, we will be looking at the Saxon/Viking struggle for control over Britain. Our enquiry question in this unit is: **Why did the Vikings have a reputation as vicious raiders?** It will cover the following areas:



- Who were the Vikings and why were they feared?
- How did the Saxons view the Vikings? (study of Lindisfarne)
- How did the Saxons and Vikings interact?
- Why was Alfred known as 'the Great'?

Class Book:

This half term we are finishing Terry Deary's Saxon Tales. We will then take a look at some non-fiction Viking books and the features of non-fiction.

English:



Our theme for this half term's English is dragons. Children will begin by writing, performing and evaluating a breaking news script. They will then create a spine poem and finally write a non-chronological report about a new dragon species.

Spellings will continue in the same format; the children will be given spellings to practice in class. On Friday, they will have a weekly test on the spelling to see how well they have retained their knowledge after a week of learning in class.

Maths:

Our focus for this half term will include:

- Multiples of 2, 5 and 10
- Multiply by 3, 4 and 8
- Divide by 3, 4 and 8
- Column subtraction with exchange
- Length and perimeter

Times Tables: Children are expected to know their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables by the end of year 3. Children will work on our times table challenge with a test on their individual focus table on a **Tuesday**. There will be a short meeting for parents to introduce this after school on Monday 16th January. An addition letter on explanation will also be sent home. The first times table test will be Tuesday 24th January.

Some useful websites to support with further practice are:

- hit the button (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>) or maths frame MTC check (<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>)

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Forces and Magnets
- PE – Dodgeball (Thursday with Mr Singh) and Gymnastics (Wednesday afternoon)
- Art – 3D form (dragon eyes)
- PSHE – Money Matters
- French – (Tuesday with Madam Duncan)
- RE - Why are festivals important to religious communities? Easter Focus
- Computing – Branching databases

Supporting learning at home:

- Spellings: These will be taught in school and lists will not be sent home to learn. An overview of the spellings patterns this half term will be added to the class page for any parents who wish to explore the spelling pattern further with children at home.
- Reading: Every child needs to read every day, including weekends. In Year 3, children should aim to read for at least 10-15 minutes each day and talk to an adult about what they have read. Each read to an adult needs to be written in the diary and signed and dated. If and when children are ready, they can complete their own reading diary – as long as they still have adult signatures for each read. It is signed reads which count towards the class reading challenge and treat. Reading diaries must be in school every day. We appreciate all your support in updating records, encouraging children to read and listening to them read regularly. It really does make a huge difference as reading is the foundation for all other subjects.

Homework:

Maths homework will be focused on the learning times tables. Practice sheets will be sent home each week to reflect the table children are focussing on. They will be issued every Tuesday following the test and due for return on the following **Monday**

English homework recommenced w.e. 13th January. This will be issued each **Friday** (if we are organised it may be sent early on a Thursday). It will be due for return on the following **Wednesday**.

For all homework, we will continue to provide answers so adults can check homework, if they wish, with the children. This is not obligatory but we have found many families find this useful. It does provide Assessment for Learning opportunities as the children can see how they have done and where they have gone wrong building resilience, enabling them to take responsibility for their learning, just like they do in class. Homework will also be checked at school. Please can RAG their work, stating what they have struggled with if they are amber or red. They are familiar with this from class and is part of the Assessment for Learning process.

RAG: Red – really struggled, need more help; Amber – nearly there; Green – fully understood.

We don't want homework to be a source of stress or anxiety, only an extension of the children's learning at school. If your child is struggling with homework, please return it to school with your child along it a note explaining what they found difficult. An adult will go through it with them.

Useful information:

Coats: Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside! Also ensure that EVERYTHING is named! If it isn't, we cannot return it.

PE: Children need to bring in a full PE kit to change in school. As the weather starts to get colder, we recommend joggers and a jumper/hoodie in addition to shorts and T-shirts. Please also make sure that your child has a named water bottle. We will continue to have PE lessons on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday** this half term.

If you have any questions to ask, or have information to tell us, please get in touch via the school office (julie.carter@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk or 01332 831471). Should you have any queries, we are available on the playground at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. Dilleigh, Mrs. Williams, Miss Warren & Mrs. Mould

Year 3