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Dear Families of Year 3,

Welcome back to another busy half term! I hope that you all managed to have a good rest and are now ready for all of the exciting Christmas festivities ahead. The children have made a great start to Year 3, settling into new routine and taking on the challenges of the curriculum. It was lovely to meet you all at Parents' Evening to talk about your child's progress and their targets for the rest of the year. Thank you for all your support with homework and encouraging your child to take an interest in their learning.

This half term, with the run-up to Christmas, the whole school topic is '*Let's Celebrate*'. For Geography, we will be naming different countries in Europe as well as their capital cities. We will look at the different ways Christmas is celebrated throughout countries of Europe. The children will be asked, for homework, to produce a project describing the Christmas traditions in a chosen European country and then present their findings to the rest of the class.

Maths and English will continue to be the core subjects of which great importance will be placed. Each will have sessions dedicated to improving and building skills.

In Maths, we will also look at multiplication and division as well as fractions and statistics. In order to support your child at home please practise times tables whenever you have an opportunity to. We will continue to give the children experiences to real –life practise problem.

In English we will be reading '*Ice Palace*' by Robert Swindells. We will be working on describing settings and using descriptive language. A big emphasis will be placed on rehearsing and editing our own work, to encourage independent learning as well as self-evaluation. We will also experience different genres of writing and creating poems as well as writing our own stories. The children will be carrying out a D&T project based on the story where they will be designing and making their own 3D model of an Ice Palace.

## **PE KITS**

We will continue to have PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has both indoor and outdoor PE kits in school at all times.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is handed out on Thursdays and needs to be handed in on Tuesdays (Unless otherwise stated). There are two set tasks for the children to complete. One of them has differentiated challenges for the children to choose themselves.

### *Reading*

Home reading is very important in improving your child's fluency, expression and comprehension. I recommend listening to your child read at least three times a week. This can also include reading to your child, discussing what has happened and making predictions. Please record our child's home reading in your reading record so that I can see when they are reading and how frequently.

### *Spellings*

Your child will have a set of spellings stuck into their homework books. Please encourage your child to look at the word, say the word, cover the word completely and then write it from memory. After, they can check it. Please do not rub out a word if it is spelled incorrectly. The children will have a 'test' in the form of dictated sentences including the spelling words during the week to see how they got on.

## **A REMINDER THAT YOU CAN COME AND SEE ME ANY TIME...**

Once again, if there is something worrying you about your child's education then I am keen to help. Please *do* come and see me if you have any questions. I will be available after school at the end of each day except Wednesday when we have staff meetings. Please can I also remind you that you can use the Home-School Link book where appropriate and to let your child know if there is a message inside.

Many thanks

Miss Groves



### An overview of learning for this half term in Year 3

<b>Understanding English, Communication and languages</b> (Speaking & Listening, Reading, Writing, MfL)	<b>Mathematical Understanding</b>	<b>Religious Education</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fiction based on the 'Power of Reading' text '<i>Ice Palace</i>'</li> <li>- Grammar, handwriting, spellings and reading will be taught daily within whole class sessions, small group work and individually.</li> <li>- story writing</li> <li>- Poetry.</li> <li>- Spellings- regular and irregular spelling patterns of verbs in the past tense as well as High Frequency Words.</li> <li>- French will continue to be taught using 'Language Angels'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shape and space- 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. Perimeter, angles and area.</li> <li>- Angles – right angles, perpendicular lines, parallel lines and estimation</li> <li>- Statistics - processing, representing and interpreting data.</li> <li>- Problem solving - including measures using written methods.</li> </ul>	<p>In R.E. This half term the focus will be on the Trinity.</p>
<b>Scientific and Technological Understanding</b> (Science, Design & Technology)	<b>Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding</b> (PSHE, History, Geography)	<b>Computing</b>
<p>This half term, we will be learning about the topic 'Rocks and Soils'</p> <p>The children will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using our scientific enquiry skills to classify a range of rocks and soils</li> <li>- Investigating durability and strength of a range of rocks and soils.</li> <li>- discussing and creating their own investigation on how we can test which soil will help a plant grow the best.</li> </ul>	<p>We will be locating countries around Europe and focusing on capital cities. We will look at how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around Europe. The children will be comparing and contrasting the festival.</p>	<p>Computing will follow the Herts Scheme and this half term we will be looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- using 2animate and 2paint to create artwork and moving animations.</li> <li>- still images and moving images.</li> <li>- how digital images can be enhanced and altered.</li> <li>- altering and distorting our own images/pictures using PowerPoint.</li> </ul>
<b>Understanding physical Development, health and wellbeing.</b> (Physical Education, Personal and Economic Wellbeing)	<b>Understanding the Arts</b> (Art and Design, Music, Drama, Dance)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Games will continue to be taught this term by 'Game On'.</li> <li>- Our indoor P.E will be Dance. The children will be listening to different styles of music and then creating movements and sequences to compliment the music.</li> </ul>	<p>In Art and drama lessons this half term, we will be in preparing for Christmas. We will be rehearsing for the Key Stage 2 Carol service and also creating Christmas cards and decorations. We will also be creating a 3D 'Ice Palace', which the children will plan, make and then evaluate.</p> <p>The children will continue to learn the recorder every Friday afternoon.</p>	

