

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER - 2026

Please don't hesitate to contact Miss Heaton or Mrs Quarry via Class Dojo if you have any questions regarding your child's learning journey. Thank you for your continued support!

Welcome back to Year 3

Our Curriculum

This term in Year 3, we will be learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We will be exploring each Age individually and comparing similarities and differences. Also, this topic has opened up the opportunity for a range of visitors and trips to extend our learning outside the classroom. We have a Tullie House visit on Tuesday 8th September and a possible trip pencilled in on Friday 9th October (more details to follow). This topic links in to our book which we will be studying in English called 'The First Drawing' by Mordicai Gerstein. We will be using this story to support us in writing character descriptions, recounts and diary entries, with the aim of our final piece being our own creative narrative.

Our Art and Science lessons will also link with our Stone Age topic as we will be studying rocks and how they are formed and creating pre-historic paintings.

Reading

Reading remains a vital part of learning in Year 3, and we strongly encourage all pupils to read at least five times a week as part of our school's 'Strive for 5' reading scheme.

Regular reading helps children to develop fluency, expand vocabulary and improve comprehension skills.

When signing their reading records, please can you include, the book title, pages read and a short comment explaining what they have read or understood.

All pupils get the opportunity to choose their own book from the colour level that they are to encourage enjoyment and a love of reading, alongside an Accelerated Reader book. When they finish their Accelerated Reader book, children can complete a comprehension-based quiz.

Thank you for continuing to support reading at home – it truly makes a huge difference to children's confidence and progress (books will be given out by Tuesday 8th September)..

Some children from our Y3 class will also continue to receive their weekly Chapter 1 reading intervention. This has proven to be very beneficial to their progress (this will restart by the end of September)

Homework

Weekly homework will continue to be posted on Class Dojo on a Friday. Children will have set spellings and times tables to learn in preparation for our tests on the following Friday. We encourage children to access Times Table Rockstars at home, the child who accesses it the most each week will receive a special prize. Some children will also receive some flashcards that display some of the common exception words from KS1 that they still find tricky, others will display some of the Y3 Statutory Words. Please can children read through these each night to help embed them. Completing homework consistently supports the retention of learning, builds independence and helps children develop good study habits. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging children to complete their homework.

Reminders

PE days – This half term, we will take part in PE sessions on **Thursdays** and **Fridays**. The children will be working with Mr Wise on a Thursday who will focus on Benchball in preparation for their competition in November. With me, they will be continuing to develop their fitness and fundamental skills which they can apply to all the different sports they will be introduced to this year. Please send your child to school in their full PE kits on these days with appropriate footwear. Any jewellery must be removed or covered before coming to school too.

On a **Wednesday** morning, we have John from escape education coming in to work with small groups of children. This will be mainly outdoors, so please make sure your child has a waterproof and some old trainees/boots with them.

Snack – Snack for the half term is £7.60. This is payable daily (20p per day), weekly (£1 per week) or in full at the beginning of the half term. Please send all money into school in labelled envelopes (if you need an envelope, ask on the door and we can provide you with one.)

Dinners – Remember to pre-order children's school dinners on **SCOPAY**. For support with this, contact the school office. If your child is on packed lunches, please ensure all products are **banana and nut free** as we have confirmed allergies in school. Please try to order dinners alongside your child at home to ensure they like what has been ordered for them.

Uniform – Please ensure that your child comes to school in their correct Distington uniform with an appropriate jacket for break and lunch times. All uniform must be labelled with your child's name to prevent any mix-ups or anything going missing.

Empowering Learning

This half term, our focus is on becoming **Self Managers**. We are encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning and actions, complete work within a given time-frame and carry on and not be put off by change. Also, we are supporting children with keeping their emotions in check when things get tough and being able to identify who helps them learn. We know that starting a new class with new teachers comes with all sorts of anxieties and worries and were hoping that as **Self Managers**, we can overcome these and settle into Year 3 and reach our full potential.

Don't miss out!

Please continue to regularly check our class and school DOJO pages for updates on your child's learning/education. Key dates and reminders will also be set on Class Dojo.

Please note: Miss Heaton doesn't work **Mondays**, but Miss Quarry teaches **Mondays** as well as **Thursday afternoons**.