

Friday 16th September 2022



Year 3 Class Newsletter

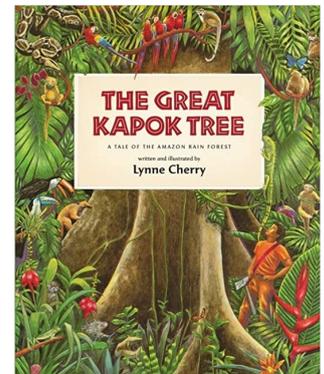
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you had a lovely summer break. The class and I have enjoyed a very positive start to the year. The children have settled very well and are quickly becoming familiar with the new routines and expectations. I have been particularly impressed by their enthusiasm for learning, and Ellen and I are looking forward to supporting your children to make the most of all of the exciting opportunities that Year 3 has to offer! It has been lovely to meet many of you on the playground, and I am looking forward to meeting more of you at the *Meet the Teacher* meeting soon.

Curriculum

To start the Autumn term, we have been focussing on our mini topic '**We are Meridian**'. Within this, we have been discussing everything that makes Meridian special whilst also reacquainting ourselves with the school values and thinking about how we can use our Meridian Learning Muscles. We have also been learning about the Prime Meridian Line and what it means for time around the world!

We will now move on to a whole school Geography topic - **Where in the World are We?** Our focus will be on South America and the Amazon rainforest. We will learn about the different features of the rainforest and its unique climate. In our English lessons, our writing will be based around '*The Great Kapok Tree*' by Lynn Cherry - a wonderful book that will really bring the topic to life!



Staffing

This year, Year 3 will be taught by Nelly and supported by Ellen, our experienced TA. Joanna, teacher and Meridian's Modern Foreign Languages Lead, will be covering the class on Wednesday mornings.

Supporting learning at home

Home learning will be posted on Google Classroom every Friday and will be linked to work we have been doing during the week. It will consist of an English or Maths task and a spelling pattern to learn. Although your child should be able to do it on their own, it is beneficial if they can talk about it and ask questions at home too. Home learning should be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. The children's weekly spelling quiz will take place on a Friday. If you do not have access to a home computer (e.g. laptop, PC, iPad), please let one of us know so that we can provide your child with a paper copy of the home learning.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day, either with an adult or independently, and do let us know if you require a book recommendation for your child – a good book is the key to a child's enjoyment of reading! Children are encouraged to take two books home to read each week: one levelled (with a coloured book band) and one 'free choice' from our class book corner. Children are able to change their books from the book corner as often as they like - they do not need to check with an adult, so you can encourage them to do this independently! They will be supported by us to change their levelled book on the same day that they have their Guided Reading session with their teacher. Children also have a reading diary where they can record their thoughts about the books they have read, and parents are welcome to make comments in these too. Please make sure your child brings their reading diary to school on the day that they have their Guided Reading session with a teacher.

Routines

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child comes to school every day and on time. Arriving in the playground at 8:45 ensures that all children are in class by 8:50 and allows a smooth start to the day with no missed learning opportunities. We also appreciate your support in developing independence in your child by ensuring that they bring their labelled water bottle to school and are suitably dressed for all weather conditions. We will continue to bring the children down to the playground at the end of each day and meet parents/carers there at 3:20pm. If someone different is collecting your child, please let the school office know as early in the day as possible.

Before coming into class in the morning, children are washing their hands, and this continues at regular intervals throughout the school day. Year 3 will have their indoor PE lesson on **Thursday** and their outside PE lesson on **Friday**. The children will need to change into a full PE kit for both sessions: for indoor PE, a T-shirt, shorts or leggings and bare feet; for outdoor PE, a T-shirt, shorts/leggings or tracksuit bottoms, a sweatshirt for colder weather and trainers or plimsolls. It is a good idea to keep your child's PE kit in school for the half term as this reduces the risk of forgotten kits!

Communication

Please check our weekly whole school newsletter for important information throughout the year and updates on what we have been learning. These will be emailed to parents/carers and are also available on the school website. If you would like a quick chat with one of us about any questions or concerns you may have, we are often available to speak to you on the playground before or after school; if not, you can speak to Jo or Jane or alternatively, please call the School Office and we will call you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your continued support. We're really looking forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's learning this year!

Best wishes,

Nelly and Ellen