Year Three Newsletter – Term 1

Our main unit for the term: **Dinosaurs**
Driving Question: **How can we, as palaeontologists prove that a variety of different dinosaurs existed?**
Driving Question: **In which ways did resilience and perseverance support the successful leadership of King George VI?**
Focus Topic: **History**

Literacy

This term in Literacy, we are learning about suspense and adventure stories. We will be using a range of writing tools, including ellipsis, direct speech and rhetorical questions. We will be working on how to make our writing descriptive and exciting as well as how to provide suspense for the reader.

In addition, we will be learning about sustainability and improving our environmental awareness through the picture book 'Belonging' by Jeannie Baker. We will be looking at the re-greening of urban areas and discussing the impact this has on the environment as well as the people and animals that live there.

At home: You could read your child's favourite adventure story or try a new one! Try to listen to your child read on a regular basis. They will also benefit from hearing you read aloud to them.

Useful vocabulary to know: noun, adjective, verb, adverb.

Useful spelling patterns to know: -ing/-ed endings, tricky high-frequency 'red 'words, homophones such as there, their and they're and to, too and two.

Maths

This term we will be focusing on place value, including numbers to one thousand and comparing and ordering numbers. We will be consolidating our knowledge of numbers through times tables and solving number problems, such as adding and subtracting two-digit numbers and answering basic word problems linked to addition and subtraction. Towards the end of the term, we will be learning how to use written methods to cross the tens boundary when adding and subtracting and will be applying this knowledge by solving word problems that require us to use these skills.

At home: Carry on practising your 2,5,10 times tables. See if you can learn them all off by heart! Challenge yourself to begin to learn your 3 times table by counting in 3s!



Useful Websites: https://www.timestables.co.uk/ (Free games and learning strategies)

Useful Apps: Times Table Rock Stars, Hit the Button, Maths Rockx, 'Pixl'

History - Driving Question: In which ways did resilience and perseverance support the successful leadership of King George VI?

As mentioned, we will begin this term by looking at previous reigning monarchs in England. Year 3 will be focusing on King George VI- King Charles, the current monarch's grandfather. We will be discussing his relationship to the current Royal Family. In addition to this, we will also be exploring how King George VI overcame particular struggles relevant to his time on the throne and comparing this to how we overcome the struggles we face today.

Dinosaurs – Driving Question: How can we, as palaeontologists, prove that a variety of different dinosaurs existed?

We will also learn all about dinosaurs. We will be completing some science and history as part of this unit, looking at fossils and bones, how we can classify dinosaurs and when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. We will also be writing our own non-chronological reports. Excitingly we will also be going on a trip to the Oxford University National History Museum.



PE

This term we are going to be developing our ball skills such as throwing and catching, keeping possession of the ball and using space effectively. We will then use these skills to play invasion games such as basketball. We will also practise running for a distance. Please ensure your child has their full PE kit in school every day.



Dates

https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/Term-1-dates-2026.docx.pdf

Class text for Term 1:

The Tunnel

There once lived a sister and brother who were not at all alike. Whenever they were together, they fought and argued noisily. Sometimes, as night fell, he would creep into her room to frighten her, for he knew that she was afraid of the dark.

One morning their mother grew impatient with their constant bickering. "Out you go together," she sighed, "and try to be nice to each other!" But the boy didn't want his little sister with him.

Reluctantly, they went together to a piece of waste ground. Looking back over her shoulder nervously, the sister whispered, "I don't want to come to this awful place. It scares me,"

"Oh you baby!" snarled her brother. "You're frightened of everything!" and he went off to explore.

"Look!" he said, "a tunnel! Come on, let's see what's at the other end".

"No there might be witches… or goblins… or *anything* down there." But her brother didn't listen.

When he didn't return, the sister was worried. What could she do? She had to follow him into the tunnel. It was pitch-black and slimy – it felt damp as she crawled through.

On reaching the other end, she found herself in a quiet wood. There was no sign of her brother. Finally, she came to a clearing. There was a figure stood as still as stone. A statue. Staring closely, she realised that it was in fact her brother! She threw her arms around the cold, hard form, and wept. Very slowly, the figure began to change colour, becoming softer and warmer. Then, little by little, it began to move. Once again, her brother was there just as she had always known him.

With their hands clasped tightly, they ran back: through the forest, through the wood, into the tunnel, and out again.

Together.