



*Belonging Believing;  
Together Succeeding*

## Barrington Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School

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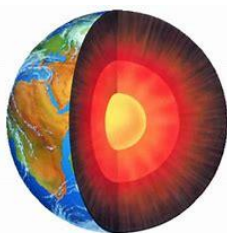
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Headteacher: Mrs G. Davies

12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Class 3 Curriculum – Spring 2018

Dear Parents,

We trust you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and are ready for your child to come back to school refreshed and enthusiastic for the term ahead. We have already seen improvements in behaviour and elements of learning from last year so long may it continue. In Class 3 we take the wellbeing of all children seriously, and we promote being positive and respectful of all in every lesson, through praising each other for good listening, achievement and for persevering. We encourage the children –and adults(!) to share their mistakes so we can all help learn from how far we have got in our learning journey, and see the benefit and importance in learning from our mistakes.

There have been some changes in the class since Christmas that you may be aware of, but read on to find out more. Mrs Dale has joined us for the mornings as our hard working Teaching Assistant. The children have been very helpful already, finding resources around the classroom and although it is sad not to have Mrs Cambridge helping in the mornings, we do still see her some afternoons and around school.

#### Every day routines:

Your child will need their water bottle, school reading book and Reading Log in the classroom every day, so after your child has hung their coat and bag up, make sure they bring these to the classroom so they can use them when necessary. As the weather is wintry, please ensure your child has a spare pair of trousers, skirt and tights in their PE bag for if there is a muddy incident –we haven't got a lot of KS2 spare clothes. Mr Herd is teaching Gymnastics at the moment but there may be times that your child needs outside PE too, so warm clothing will be needed, especially outside shoes.

#### Curriculum

**Topic:** Many of the children are very excited to be learning about our new topic, Extreme Earth. This involves elements of geology, geography, science as well as links with more subject areas. We will be finding out about how different types of rocks and soils are formed, what volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis are and where in the world they are more frequent than others in relation to plate tectonics, as well as having a focus on our Scientific enquiry skills in a range of scientific topics.

**English:** We are starting off looking at newspaper reports, followed by traditional poetry and writing stories using Leon and the place between as our quality text, linking with possibly a journey to the centre of the Earth.

**Spellings:** In listening to parental feedback, we are returning to a list of words to be learnt but your child will be expected to learn the meaning of unfamiliar words and find more words using the spelling pattern. Spellings will be sent home on a Friday as part of the weekly homework tasks and will be assessed on Tuesdays, using a range of methods such as dictated sentences, written spelling tests and orally.

**Reading** remains vitally important and thank you to those of you who consistently support your child's reading at home, it really does support their learning – and helps your child gain easy housepoints! If your child is part of the school reading scheme colour banded books, they gain a housepoint for reading at home aloud to an adult 3 times a week. If your child is an "Adult Choice" reader, they should have a Booktalk sheet to be working on as they read and need to read aloud to an adult 5 times a week to gain a housepoint. Reading aloud helps in many different ways, but promotes more opportunities for self correcting, listening to ensure it makes sense, allowing the opportunity for character voices and appropriate expression to be heard and avoids scan reading and missing out unfamiliar words.



Cambridgeshire  
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It is important your child reads **good quality texts** as a model of good quality writing for them. Encourage your child to record the books they have read and make a valuable comment about an aspect of the plot, or deduction of a character's viewpoint or reaction, or an opinion about a particular event. Reading books and Reading Logs should be taken home and brought back to school **every day**. –The Log is going to be used during Guided reading sessions so there may be more focussed tasks and prompts stuck in your child's Reading Journal related to what we are doing in groupwork.

We are always looking for volunteers to listen to readers in the school day, so if you feel that you could spare an hour a week, please pop in and speak to one of us. At the time of writing we have no parent readers booked in regularly. Reading is a vital life skill and we would love more opportunities for your child to read and gain pleasure from reading. When your child has read their whole book to an adult AND answered questions about it in their reading record, they need to let one of us know to change their book.

**Maths:** We will continue to develop the children's mathematical skills across the curriculum. We will be following Year 3 and 4 objectives (as appropriate) of the new Primary Framework for Maths 2014. This gives greater emphasis on strategies for problem solving and comprises of nine strands:

- Number and place value
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Number - fractions
- Ratio and proportion
- Algebra
- Geometry – properties of shapes
- Geometry – position and direction
- Measurement
- Statistics

[http://www.over.cambs.sch.uk/website/calculation\\_methods](http://www.over.cambs.sch.uk/website/calculation_methods)

Over Primary school has created videos to show the calculation methods your child will be learning this year. We are hoping to produce videos of the children explaining such methods to be uploaded to our school website. Watch this space- we haven't managed it yet! Mental arithmetic and mental maths skills will be taught daily as part of our CLIC Maths. Any extra support you can give your child in learning their times tables will be greatly appreciated. We have already been teaching 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x, 6x, 8x and 7x tables within CLIC and maths lessons as we are having a focus on multiplying and dividing. By the end of year 4 every child should be able to answer questions at speed up to 12 x 12. Be warned that if children do not "see" the patterns and arrays in pictures and physically build the multiplications, they are just known facts with little meaning so rather than learning by rote, we would encourage you to play with numbers using sweets, dried pasta, raisins, shoes, calendars (7x and 12x) for example to show what the groupings mean.

In **RE** we will be learning about why people pray with a focus on Islam and the Muslim faith. For the Computing curriculum we are looking at using Excel, relating to Science and Maths data. Madame Sanders will continue to teach them Spanish on a weekly basis on Tuesdays.

**PE:** PE will be with Mr Herd on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has all they need for PE each week, especially if they do sports clubs in the week. We have a no tape policy for earrings. They need to be removed please. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school including tracksuit bottoms, top and a change of footwear for PE as well as indoor shorts and T-shirt. Occasionally, due to weather or restrictions on use of the hall we have to change days so your child's PE kit needs to be in school at all times, especially if your child takes kit home following after school clubs.

**Homework:** There will be a topic homework menu to give the children a choice of activities related to the topic. The expectation is that ALL children will research and complete at least 2 pieces of topic homework EACH HALF TERM. As part of the whole school Oracy project we expect the children to practise a speech about their homework to perform in front of the class. It does not need to be learnt off by heart, as explained in the Topic Menu homework, but there will be time during the week to share with the class. On Fridays your child will receive a Maths or English task to be completed (alternate weeks) to be given in on Wednesdays.

**School Uniform:** Thank you for sending your child into school wearing smart uniform. It is making a difference and as class teachers, we are proud when other members of staff (and the wider community) comment on the class as a whole. We are delighted to share with you that regularly the class have been complimented on their polite manners and ability to listen and line up sensibly. This may not sound impressive to you, but we can assure you, we like to be compared favourably with other classes and other schools.

As we live in a digital age, here are some useful websites for your child find out about our topics. Please monitor your child's activity on the internet and be vigilant to ensure your child uses their knowledge of e-safety to stay safe.

**Thinkuknow** website teaches more about internet safety.

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8\\_10/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/)

More information can be found on our school website, and we hope to share work from our class there too. Thank you again for your support and we hope your child and you enjoy this term's learning and activities.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGregor, Mrs Beswick and Mrs Dale

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