

Elephant (Year 3) Spring Term Newsletter



English

Ted Hughes
the Iron
man



In English our focus will be on further developing our skills in listening and speaking, reading a wide range of texts and developing our comprehension skills to retrieve information to answer questions, sequence events and explain characters and vocabulary.

*This term we will be reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We will be exploring the vocabulary of this text, developing our descriptive writing and considering the readers of our work as we move towards writing an explanation text.*

*Later this term, we will be reading *'Lightning Mary'* by Anthea Simmons, linking to our Geography work on rocks and fossils, however please keep this as a surprise for in school.*

Maths



In Maths, our topics will be 'Multiplication and Division', 'Length and Perimeter', 'Fractions' and 'Mass and Capacity'.

Multiplication and Division: We will be using our times table knowledge to help us multiply and divide 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.

Length and Perimeter: We will be measuring in metres, centimetres and millimetres, converting between these units and calculating measurements.

Fractions: We will be looking at unit and non-unit fractions, understanding the language of fractions and ordering fractions.

Mass and Capacity: We will be measuring weight using grams and kilograms and capacity using millilitres and litres.

Science



Our topic is 'Forces and Magnets'

This project teaches children about contact and non-contact forces, including friction and magnetism. They investigate frictional and magnetic forces, and identify parts of a magnet and magnetic materials. Children will have the opportunity to investigate forces using scientific equipment to develop their understanding.

Foundation subjects



Geography: Our topic is 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles'

This project teaches children about the features and characteristics of Earth's layers, including a detailed exploration of volcanic, tectonic and seismic activity. They will investigate the location of tectonic plates and significant volcanoes, as well as significant events like Pompeii.

Computing: Our topics are 'Programming - Sequencing sounds' and 'Data and information - Branching databases'

Children will explore the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. It begins with an introduction to the programming environment. They will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences.

Children will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will use yes/no questions to gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects.

Music: *Our units are 'The Little Birds' (reggae) and 'The Dragon Song' (world music)*

Children will practise and embed their singing and improvisation skills, before developing basic composition and notation skills.

Art: *Our topics are 'Ammonite' and 'People and places'*

Ammonite: This project teaches children about artistic techniques used in sketching, printmaking and sculpture.

People and Places: This project teaches children about the genre of figure drawing. They study the figure drawings and urban landscapes of the artist LS Lowry and create artwork in his style to show scenes from their school.

French: *Our topics are 'Instruments' and 'I can...' (the verb 'to be able to').*

RE & PSHE



RE: *Our units are focused on Christianity: 'Could Jesus heal people? Did he perform miracles or is there some other explanation?' and 'What is good about Good Friday?'*

We will be exploring different bible stories where healing took place and whether they were miracles or if there could be other explanations. We will also be exploring the Easter story and it's significance to Christians.

PSHE: *Our units are 'Dreams and goals' and 'Healthy me'*

In Dreams and goals, we will be thinking about working towards a goal even when it is challenging, overcoming obstacles and working well in a group.

In Healthy me, we will be understanding how to keep our bodies healthy through balanced diet and exercise, keeping ourselves safe and develop healthy relationships.

Homework



Reading: Pupils are expected to read to an adult at home for at least ten minutes, four times weekly. Please ensure this is noted in planners. We check and sign planners once a week, giving Dojo points for regular reading. All 'Big Cat' reading books should be read to an adult. Children can earn up to 4 Dojo points a week for reading their school reading book.

Spellings: Children will have weekly spelling quizzes every **Friday** to check understanding of spelling rules taught in school. Children should practise these through the **EdShed** website, using games to learn the new words.

Times tables: Each week, children will be set games on the **Times Tables Rock Stars** website as homework to complete. The tasks will be set on a Friday and are due the following Friday. This can be in smaller, daily chunks rather than all in one go. Children earn Dojo points for regular times table practise.

Projects: We will be having a half termly project homework linked to our learning in school. This will allow children the opportunity to explore a topic more widely and present their findings in a range of ways.

Recommended reading



Story and non-fiction books about rocks or fossils would support our Geography learning, such as *Harley Hitch* and *the Fossil Mystery* by Vashti Hardy, *Blue John* by Berlie Doherty, *The Pebble in my Pocket* by Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady and *The Street Beneath my Feet* by Charlotte Guillian and Yuval Zommer.

Below is a recommended reading list for Year 3 from Books for Topics:
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/year-3/>



Websites to support learning



[BBC Bitesize - KS2](#)

[National Geographic for children](#)

[Primary homework help](#)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years>

PE



Year 3 have PE on Mondays and Thursdays.

This term we will be doing Tag Rugby and Football.

Pupils are expected to wear full PE kit including:

- *T-shirt in the colour of their house*
 - *Red or black shorts*
 - *Plain dark jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt may be worn over PE kit in colder weather as we will be outside*
 - *Trainers*
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Please mark all items of clothing with the child's name because school cannot accept responsibility for lost jumpers, trainers, etc.

Long hair should be tied back.

Jewellery - including earrings – should be removed or taped over.

Equipment



All pupils are required to have a fully-stocked, named pencil case (with spares!) including:

- *Pencils*
 - *Handwriting pens (Not biros)*
 - *Ruler*
 - *Eraser*
 - *Glue stick*
 - *Whiteboard pens*
 - *Scissors*
 - *Coloured pencils*
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We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own possessions, reminding them to write in their planner if something has run out. Additional stationery items can be purchased from school at a reduced cost. Please see the website (Parents: Stationery) for prices.

Contacting school



For general class enquiries please email year3@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk however this may not be monitored throughout the day.

For any urgent enquiries please contact the school office.
