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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! We hope you have had a great summer holiday. It has been wonderful getting to know your children and great to meet so many of you over the last few days at drop off and pickup. Just to remind you, Mrs Mannering will also be covering Mrs Sakaki's planning time on a Friday afternoon and teaching in class, so please ensure to pass any messages along to the office on Friday.

Our first learning journey in Year Three is 'The UK' with our focus question being, 'What do maps tell us about the UK?' This is a geography focused topic all about the country we live in and everything around us. We will be thinking 'what can I learn from a map?' and learning how to read, follow and design maps. We will also be exploring the essential skills of a map maker, including compass skills, understanding of direction, coordinates and scale.

This will link with our work in English, where we will be exploring a range of focus texts linked to journeys. We will be starting with the book, 'Journey', where we will review the components of a narrative story, enrich our sentence structure by using conjunctions and interesting descriptive language that captures one's imagination. These lessons will lead onto writing a narrative story about their own creative journey. We will also have weekly spellings where we will explore different ways in class to remember the spellings. We will also continue to do some phonics lessons, using the Sounds Write program started in Key Stage 1 last year.

Your child will be soon coming home with a new home reading record and a reading book. The books will be changed every Wednesday as it also coincides with our library day. Please help them to look after the books so they can be returned for others to enjoy. Mrs Sakaki will be reading with your children in a variety of ways; whole class shared reading, guided reading carousel and 1:1. All children are welcome to bring in books from home to read throughout the week at school.

In Maths we have started the term by looking at place value. We will explore 3-digit numbers by looking at the place value of each digit and then using this knowledge to compare different numbers. Later in the term, we will also look at addition and subtraction of numbers up to 1000 by using a range of strategies for calculating addition and subtraction problems. Children will need to be able to explain how they have solved problems, especially when using mental maths.

For science this term our topic is Forces. This will include investigating how magnets work, thinking about compasses and conducting experiments which test out different forces such as gravity, air resistance and water resistance and come to conclusions how friction can affect the speed of an object.

Our art this term will focus on two elements of art: line and colour. We will look at the works of British artists, Eric Ravilious and David Hockney in how they use these elements and develop various techniques to create images inspired by Ravilious's and Hockney's work.

In PSHE we will be reminding ourselves of the Zones of Regulation and exploring our emotions and building toolkits to support our emotions. We will continue in our work on getting to know each other, positive friendships and interactions.

We have PE on a Tuesday (Forest School) and Thursday (PE). On Tuesdays, can you please ensure your child has a pair of shoes to wear in school, as their wellies/boots will likely be very muddy from Forest School.

Music will be taught by Mrs Sakaki and French by Mrs Mannering over the term. In Music we will find the rhythm and pulse of various genres of music and play the glockenspiels. In French we will begin learning basic saying and how to respond to them.

RE will focus on Christianity for two terms. We will be using resources provided by the scheme 'Understanding Christianity' to explore two question: 'What do Christians learn from the Creation story?' and 'What is it like for someone to follow God?'

In Computing we will learn about E-Safety, how to use a laptop to go on the internet to access Times Table Rock Stars. We will also be using a blend of iPads and laptops to begin coding using Sparks Academy.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to see me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Sakaki