



Year 3 Spring 1 Newsletter



Coming up in Spring 1

Lights, Camera, Action!

During this half term, in Science, we will explore: how light helps us to see; different types of light sources; and how shadows are formed. There will be lots of opportunities for practical and exciting experiments! In our art learning, we will be looking at different ways to create shadow with charcoal, with chalk and by using different pencils to develop hatching and cross hatching techniques.

What would happen if there was no light?



Under the Canopy!

Towards the end of the half-term, we will begin exploring the different biomes and climates of the world, focusing on the amazing plants and animals that live in the Amazon rainforest. At the same time, the children will be investigating how plants grow and learning from their own first-hand experiences.

Would life be simpler if everyone was the same?



Thank you for your continued support,
Year 3 Team

Our English learning will include writing a poem about the 'Night Box' and persuasive writing linked to the King 'Who Banned the Dark'. Then, our learning will be themed around books by the author Dick King-Smith. We will learn about the challenges the main animal characters face and how they overcome them. The children will use these books to publish their own animal stories, set in the rainforest.

Our mathematics learning will continue to develop informal multiplication and division calculation strategies using a number line and a grid. Later on in the half term, we will learn how to write fractions with small denominators, how to recognise equivalent fractions and how to add, subtract and compare fractions with the same denominator.

Our Personal and Development Learning (SCARF) unit is:



Being My Best

The key learning points are about:

- Healthy diets and poor diets
- Courtesy, manners and respecting others, even when they are different from yourself
- Relationships online and knowing that sometimes people behave differently online
- Secure, stable and healthy family life, and the importance of spending time together
- The benefits of physical exercise and time outdoors on mental well-being and happiness.

How you can **support your child's learning at home**



Supporting your child to complete their Home Learning each week is one of the best ways that you can help from home as this encourages them to remember number facts and spelling rules.

To support your child's **reading**, we strongly recommend reading every day where we hope that children will further develop their love of reading. Your child could read aloud to an adult which provides an excellent opportunity for you to discuss the text and to encourage them to pause, according to the punctuation (i.e. for commas and end stops). This greatly aids their understanding of the text as they read. It would be great if you also discuss any interesting or unfamiliar words.

To support your child's **mathematics**, you could help them to practise the multiplication and division facts for the 4x and 8x tables. Also, it would be beneficial to practise using the addition and subtraction number pairs for numbers to 20 (e.g. questions like $15 - 7 = 8$; $150 - 70 = 80$, $9 + 4 = 13$; $90 + 40 = 130$).

If your child has any new year resolutions or has identified things they would like to achieve over the coming year, they could write them down and then check at the end of the year to see how they did.

Year 3 Messages

Please remember to **return library books** on a **Thursday** and **guided reading books** on a **Friday**.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Cave Art drop-in. We really hope you enjoyed the chance for the children to share with you their artwork and learning.

Dates for your Year 3 diary

None at the moment 😊

Find out about the wonderful learning we did in Autumn 2 below ...

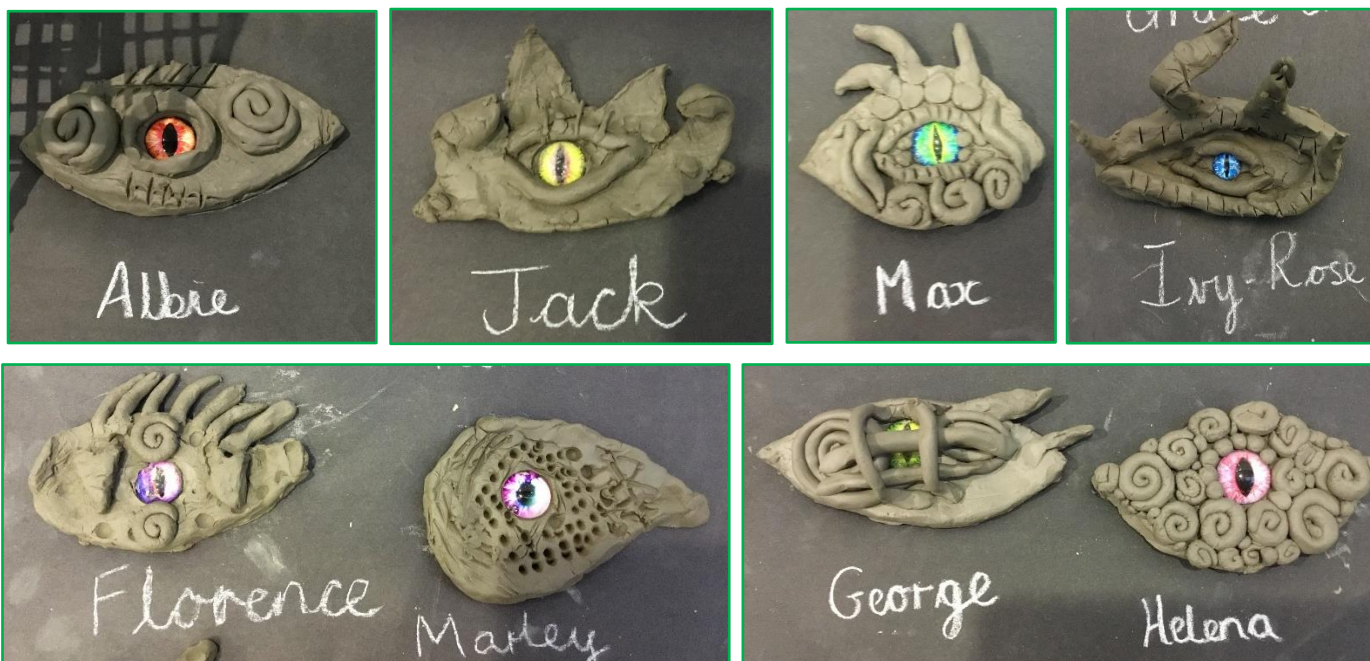
Our Learning in Autumn 2

Missing Dragons

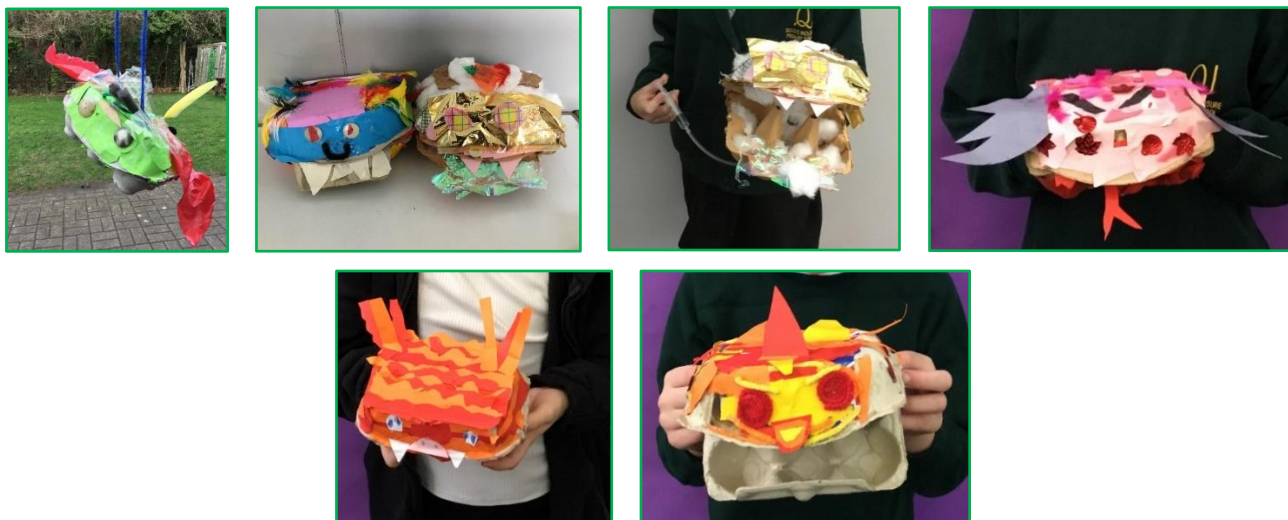
We started the second Autumn half term by reading illustrated books and poems about dragons. We had great fun designing our own dragons and the children wrote some great descriptions of them by applying what they had learnt about expanded noun phrases and similes! We then used these to go on an exciting dragon hunt around our school. We were very successful in finding them.



In our Art learning this half term, we took inspiration from learning about dragons to sculpt our own clay dragon eyes. We looked at existing sculptures of dragon eyes and explained what we liked about them and this inspired our own creations.



In DT, we learnt how pneumatic systems work and put this new learning to good use when designing and making our moving toys. We demonstrated great teamwork and overcame the different challenges we faced during the making process.



We would also like to thank the PTA for running Present Buying Day!
We shopped until we dropped!