

# Year 3 Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Maney Hill in 2018! ☺

The children have returned enthusiastic and refreshed after the Christmas break and are ready for another busy term.

Here is a brief outline of the units we have planned for this term:

Subject	Focus
English	English lessons for this first half-term will focus on the theme of Robots, where we will be reading and completing activities using the popular children's story <i>The Iron Man</i> . We will look at language, characterisation and themes, considering how this book sits alongside traditional fairy-tale genre stories. Additionally, we will look at non-fiction texts about robots, using this as a stimulus for developing new and effective vocabulary to use appropriately in writing. Furthermore, we will look to improve our creative writing, facilitating the careful production of a story and a poem around the robot theme, with opportunities for children to critically review, edit and improve their own work.
Maths	We will begin this term looking at number sequences and place value of up to three-digit numbers. Over the coming weeks, we will be developing a mastery of both written and mental addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There will be many opportunities for children to apply their understanding of these methods by solving both practical and written problems in the context of money and measures. Other areas to be covered in depth this term include angles, fractions and statistics.
Science	In Science, our new topic will be look at magnetism which will see many opportunities for practical experiments and investigations. To begin with, we will observe the different forces that a magnet produces, understanding the relationship between the north and south pole, using this to understand how magnets are used in a compass. Also, we will identify the properties of magnetic materials and conduct fair tests to discover which materials a magnetic force can pass through, how far a magnetic force spreads away from a magnet and whether bigger magnets are more powerful than smaller magnets.
Topic	'Whatever the Weather' will be our topic for the Spring Term. We will define and investigate different climates from around the world, why we experience these different climates and how people and places suitably adapt their surroundings and lifestyle accordingly. We will explore the causes and devastation of the recent storms in the UK, completing some research and related writing tasks. Moreover, we will study the effects of global warming on the planet, how the water cycle works and will create an animated digital weather report.
P.E.	In P.E. this term, the children will go swimming at Castle Vale baths and have football sessions delivered by an F.A. qualified coach. P.E. will normally take place on Wednesday mornings (swimming) and Thursday mornings (football). After half-term, the children will receive a sequence of cricket sessions delivered by the Warwickshire cricket board.

*Children will also have regular R.E, Music and French lessons.*

## Homework, Spellings and Reading

- One piece of homework will be handed out each Friday, to be returned no later than the following Wednesday. Homework will alternate between English and Maths although a piece of Science or Topic may occasionally be sent out instead.
- The children will also get spellings to learn on a weekly basis. Spellings will be handed out on Friday, in spelling books, to be learnt at home for a test the following Friday. As a way of learning spellings, I would recommend getting your child to use them within written sentences which can be written in Homework books. Not only does this help with spelling the words, but also puts the words into context, builds your child's vocabulary and develops their sentence structure.
- Each child should be reading frequently at home and children will have the opportunity to change their reading book every day although should establish a deep understanding of the text before changing books.

## Diary Dates

- Year 3 Class Assembly – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Parents Evenings – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February & Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February
- Trip to Central Birmingham Synagogue – TBC

Thank you for your support throughout the Autumn Term. If you have any concerns or queries during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Mr T. McNicholas