



Year 3 Newsletter

Spring Term

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and have had the chance to eat your body weight in chocolate like me! My name is now Mrs Gulliver (formally Miss Stephens) and I will be teaching Year 3 for the rest of the year, Tuesday to Friday. Miss Gray will continue teaching Year 3 on Mondays.

Swimming Lessons On Friday mornings, commencing Friday 10th January and running until the end of Spring Term, Year 3 will be taking swimming lessons at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. This is a National Curriculum requirement and is part of the PE curriculum. Year 3 will be taught by a swimming instructor, both how to swim and how to improve their strokes depending on their current level.

Each Friday, children will need to bring in a swimming kit including a swimming hat. Hats can be purchased from school for a small fee. Please ensure your child has the appropriate kit on this day as we don't want to waste this opportunity!



Dates for the Diary The term date list does have a comprehensive list of all school dates but there are certain ones which are important to Year 3 specifically. On Tuesday 21st January, Year 3 will be going on a trip to Newcastle. On the morning, we will be visiting a Hindu Temple and, on the afternoon, we will be going to the Great North Museum: Hancock and completing a skeleton workshop! We may even have time to visit the Ancient Egyptian artefacts! Please look out for a ParentMail and fill in the form.

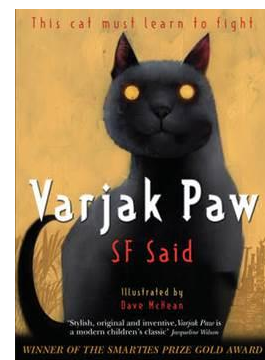
On Thursday 30th January, we have our Learning Together on Maths! We will be working together on times tables and arithmetic.

On Monday 10th February, we will be taking the Year 3 children to Tea@2. We will be knitting with an older generation as a fun way to start our topic of community in PSHCE. Again, please look out for further information on ParentMail and fill in the form when required.

Our topic after half term is Rivers in Geography. I would like to take the children to the River Wear in the week beginning 31st March. This is weather permitting and therefore I will be sending out confirmation closer to the time.

Our New Novel – Varjak Paw

Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue cat from a large family that live comfortably inside the Contessa's large, grand house. Yet, when the Gentleman arrives with his odd black cats, Varjak and his grandfather the Elder Paw believe that something strange is going on. Having escaped the house, Elder Paw tells Varjak to leave and bring back a dog that will frighten away the Gentleman and his black cats. Thing is, Varjak has no street smarts, having been a house cat all his life – and has no idea what a dog is, either!



Our Next Novel – Stitch Head



Deep in the maze-like dungeons of Castle Grotteskew, insane Professor Erasmus created Stitch Head, a small, almost-human creature.

His experiments continued, filling the castle with creations so fabulously monstrous that Stitch Head was long forgotten. Until a travelling circus ringmaster knocks at the castle door, promising to make Stitch Head a star. Is this Stitch Head's chance to venture beyond the castle walls? Or could he be making a terrible mistake...?

Homework and Rewards

- **Reading** - At least four times per week
- **Spelling** – To complete weekly and hand in on Monday. Each week, Year 3 children can earn minutes for a bouncy castle by completing it to a high standard!
- **Times Tables** – To practise x3, x4 and x8 little and often.
- **TTRockStars** and **SpellingShed** - Both can be used in homework BUT I still require written spelling homework as this helps with handwriting and a record of which times tables have been practiced.

Contact can be made with both myself and Miss Gray via the class email. The address is DTCYear3@tudhoecolliery.co.uk

We also use Seesaw to show you our achievements throughout the week. If you're having any issues with this platform, please let us know via the class email.

Subjects and Topics

- **Science** – Rocks and Light
- **History** – Ancient Egypt
- **Geography** – Rivers
- **RE** – Hinduism
- **PSHCE** – What are families like? And Living in the Wider World
- **Computing** – Spreadsheets, touch typing and emails
- **PE** – Please come to school in PE Kit on **Wednesdays** and our topic will be dance first and gymnastics after half term!
- **Spanish** – Recap of greetings, the numbers 0-31 and the days of the week
- **Art and Design** – We will explore making textures with paint and creating small clay sculptures.
- **Design and Technology** – The brief is to design, make and evaluate a balanced picnic.
- **Music** - feelings through music and in the second half-term, we will be having recorder lessons with Ms Casewell.