

Welcome to 2025 in Year 3! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed seeing in the New Year. We are sure the children are raring to go for what should be a fun packed term of activities focusing on the history of early mankind from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age.



Stone Age to Iron Age

History and Geography

Our topic is Stone Age to Iron Age, understanding how life changed during this time. Using different sources of evidence, the children will learn about the first settlers in Britain and how they lived. They will learn where people settled and why, as well as looking at key settlements at the time. They will also learn to recognise some physical geographical features, for example, rivers and mountains and their influence on the location of these settlements.

Art and Design & Technology

In art, the children will be using sculpting skills to design and create a Stone Age style pot, learning about different ways to mould and shape clay without drying it out!

In Design and Technology, the children will be using their textiles skills to design and make a Stone Age inspired gathering pouch, developing stitching and joining skills.

Maths

Now the children are feeling confident, we will be applying all four operations to problem-solving activities in different mathematical contexts. Children will further develop understanding of telling the time to the nearest minute (a sometimes tricky subject). The more you can practise reading an analogue clock at home, the better! If you need some guidance, please do not hesitate to speak to us. The children will also be learning about key units of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years). Measure is another focus, with the children measuring and calculating length, mass and capacity accurately. These are all skills which you could practise at home. The children will also be working with money and applying their calculation skills. They will be extending their understanding of fractions, calculating fractions of amounts and adding and subtracting fractions within a whole.

Children will be learning the three and six times tables this term whilst revising those already covered. During lessons children will explore both multiplication and division in a variety of ways to help ensure that they have a deep understanding of the number facts.

English

The children will write in a range of genres including narratives, diaries, poetry and instructions. They will write statement, question, command and exclamation sentences appropriate to the genre and recognise the need for relevant punctuation and accurate spelling. They will extend their understanding of the effect of the use of adverbs, appropriate vocabulary choices and expanded noun phrases on the reader. Please encourage your child to develop their vocabulary through regular reading at home, discussing the meaning of new words.

Weekly guided reading will continue to take place where your child will develop core comprehension skills.

Music

The children will explore how untuned instruments can be used to create interesting compositions based around the life of a hunter-gatherer. They will try to match the timbre of the instruments to the topic.

French

The children will learn numbers 11 to 31 and be introduced to the days of the week and months of the year. They will continue to carry out simple conversations and learn how to write these using basic phrases or sentences.



Science

In Science, the children will be learning about the properties of different rocks and soils. They will continue to work scientifically through close observation, practical investigations and classifying different samples of rocks and soils. They will also learn how fossils are formed and how soil is made.

Computing

Throughout our computing sessions, the children will carry out efficient internet searches using keywords, while continuing to practise how to save their research to the school network. They will then learn how to create a multimedia presentation using the program Microsoft PowerPoint. Typing skills will also continue to be practised.

Life Skills

The children will learn what diversity means and how diverse Britain is. They will learn about the key values of democracy, liberty, tolerance and respect and the importance of upholding and promoting these values to create a fair society for everyone.

In 'Be Yourself', children will explore their strengths, skills and interests in order to understand the concepts of self-worth and personal identity. They will continue to learn how to recognise, discuss and manage their feelings through work using the Zones of Regulation.

RE

We will begin to look at the Islamic faith and will learn about the importance of the 5 Pillars of Islam and the role of the mosque before considering the impact these have on Muslims' daily lives. Following this, children will explore and compare how Christian and Muslim people express commitment to their religion in their everyday lives. They will look specifically at key ceremonies from birth to death.

Homework

Ideally children should read with an adult at home at least three times a week. Even confident readers benefit from this as it helps with expression, comprehension and enjoyment. Record this in the green reading record book.

Remember that, alongside regular reading, a maths task is allocated on a Friday using the MyMaths website. From Friday 10th January, the weekly times table activity will also be set electronically using Google Classroom. This enables the children to become familiar with this online platform. We have already provided the necessary log-in details and shown the children the site. If anyone has any problems with access, please let us know so we can arrange for children to complete these tasks at school.

PE

The children will develop their skills of dribbling and passing the ball in football. They will work together to devise simple games to practise and begin to think about attacking and defending strategies.

Gymnastics will focus on improving body control when jumping, rolling and balancing, combining moves to make short sequences.

Our creative dance unit is based on our Stone Age topic. Children will learn to respond to stimuli to create different phrases of movement, which can be linked to make a dance.

Our PE days will be Wednesday and Thursday. As the months are colder please ensure your child has correct clothing for both indoor and outdoor sessions at all times. Please refer to the uniform policy to help with this and make sure that complete PE kits **including socks** are in school every day. (If your child has a verruca, grip socks will be needed for gym and dance.)

HELP NEEDED

**Do you have hand-sewing experience?
Could you spare some time to help out?**

We need some volunteers to help with our gathering pouch project in the classroom. For more information please email your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support in the first term with reading and times tables. We can really see the difference in children's confidence and use of skills.

If you would like to have a discussion with either of us about your child, please email on miss.coulson@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or ms.cameron@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or make an appointment via the office.

Miss Coulson and Mrs Cameron