



P.P.S. Beech Class

September 2017
Autumn Term

Savage Stone Age/ Sources of Light

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn term. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are ready for your child's new learning experiences this term. We will be beginning this term with a historical focus, through our "Savage Stone Age" topic and after half term will move on to a cross-curricular theme of light.

In **Science**, we will be learning about rocks and fossils. This unit will give the children the opportunity to closely observe different types of rocks and describe their properties, before applying their acquired understanding within investigations and research. They will be taught the meaning of key terms such as permeability, erosion and how different types of rocks and fossils form.

Our **P.E.** lessons will take place on Tuesday and Friday. Please make sure your child has full PE kit in school on these days. This term, our PE lessons will focus on movement and balance under the broader context of gymnastics. The children will also be learning to play tag rugby. Core skills such as passing, intercepting and tactical team working will be applied through lots of small and large team competitive games as we near the end of this unit.

Computing lessons this term will focus on programming. The children will get to grips with the fundamentals of programming, using algorithms and devising sets of instructions to achieve a pre-planned outcome. They will use Scratch software and some web-based games to practice

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects

and develop their programming skills. We will also be discussing the issue of e-safety to help raise your children's awareness of security online.

Our **History** for this term is centred on the question: "What was life like in the Stone Age and how did life change as the Iron Age began?" We will be learning about how people lived during this historical period, how historians use sources to uncover these facts, comparing life this far back in history to modern life and experiencing some Stone Age customs first-hand through an interactive Living History workshop.

In **Art** lessons, we will be experimenting with different mediums and creating outcomes using different techniques. We will be focusing on the work of different artists and using this as inspiration to create our own Skara Brae pastel pictures and Stone Henge silhouettes. We will also turn our tables into caves to produce some cave paintings using spray paint and charcoal.

In **Design and Technology**, we will be designing, making and evaluating Stone Age man masks and flint axes, as well as working together to produce cave systems and a 3D replica of Stonehenge!

As well as discussing and thinking about the core values that permeate the school's collective worship this term, we will be focusing on Creation in **R.E.** The children will have the opportunity to explore the meaning of this passage from the Bible and reflect on their understanding of it. During the second half of the term we will be exploring what do Muslims celebrate? Why? When? The similarities and difference with Christianity.

Music lessons this term will give the children opportunities



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to listen to and evaluate different types of music, created by a variety of instruments. They will learn to pick up on and follow rhythms and will rehearse and perform a class song.

Mrs Soal will be teaching Year 3 **French** on Thursday afternoons. These lessons this term will focus on how to greet others, introduce themselves and share how they feel. The children will learn how to use the third person singular (he or she) in French to talk about others. This will be done through songs, games and stories. Towards the end of the term, the children will learn about how Christmas is celebrated in France and the vocabulary related to it.

Literacy and **Maths** will continue to be taught daily and will, wherever possible, be linked to the topic to give the children's learning cross-curricular context. In Literacy, for example, we will be learning about stories with historical settings and the features of adventure narratives through the text "Stone Age Boy".

So, this Autumn term promises to be packed with learning opportunities and we can not wait to get started! It goes without saying that we always value the support you give your children at home and the work you do with them to consolidate their learning. We continue to have a heavy focus on reading in school and believe enjoyment of reading is of primary importance. It would be helpful, therefore, if you could listen to your child read regularly at home and record this in their Reading Records.

Maths homework tasks will be set each week on Mathematics. The children's login details will be sent home within the first week. Occasionally, paper tasks will also be set for the children to complete in their homework books. Homework will be set on a Thursday and will be collected in on a Tuesday. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 3 statutory list. Times tables and spellings will be tested every week.

Lastly, we would welcome any volunteer parents who are able to listen to children read during the week. Please let us know if you feel you may be able to support us with this.

We look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming weeks,

Kind regards

Mrs Harris and Mr Brigden

Class teachers

Key dates for your diary

Stone Age theatre workshop- 26th September

INSET day 20th October

School photographs 3rd November

Forest schools will be every Thursday during the following dates.

Explorer: 25th January—1st March

Investigators: 30th October—18th January