

## Rewards—Golden time and Class Dojo in Class 3

This year once again we will be using Golden time and Class Dojo points as our reward systems.

**Golden Time Allocation**—Each week, each child, will be allocated 25 minutes of golden time to be redeemed on a Friday afternoon as a reward for their good behaviour and completion of homework (20 minutes for good behaviour and 5 minutes for completion of homework diaries). In instances of breaking the class rules after a warning, this reward time can be removed in 5 minute blocks leading to less reward time at the end of the week. Everyone has a green side and red side on their name card with everyone beginning on green. The card is turned to red as a final warning before each block of time is lost. Any cards turned over to red are turned to green for each new day and any cards moved to indicate time lost are reset at the beginning of each new week.

Homework diaries will be checked on a Friday morning for evidence of your child recording their reading and at least 3 parent/carer signatures or instances of parent/carer recorded comments— both self recording of reading and parental input will be required to receive the final 5 minutes of Golden Time.

## **Reading in Class 3**

### **Reading at home**

**Reading at home makes a big difference in children's progress in reading. Children should read at home regularly as part of their homework and have this recorded in their homework journals. Children who read regularly at home achieve significantly better progress and results in reading, writing and across the curriculum.**

**All children should have their reading monitored closely at home and recorded in their homework journal. As well as enjoyment, the key areas of focus are on the tackling of new vocabulary and comprehension of what they have read. You can help them by asking them to tell you about what they have read. You can also help them by asking them questions about the book. Children at this stage will not need to do all of their reading aloud but should still be encouraged to for short sections of the book in order to check their understanding and to help them understand new vocabulary and more complex words.**

**Reading in School**— In School we teach children the skills and techniques they will need to use in order to be a successful reader. Through independent reading, guided reading, reading with a member of staff, class discussions and literacy lessons we aim to teach and support the keys areas of decoding (word reading), comprehension and vocabulary. Further practising these skills at home is vital to ensuring that they become ingrained and secure.

### **Choosing a suitable book**

**Choosing the correct difficulty of book is important to both your child's enjoyment of the text and their progress in reading. Finding a book that is not too easy, not too hard but in the words of Goldilocks 'Just right' can be difficult and is certainly not an exact science. Children are expected to give books they choose a 'good go' with the aim of finishing them. However, not every choice will have been successful and on occasion children should feel able to change their book before finishing if they do not understand, do not like it or feel that the book is unsuitable for them.**

**We will endeavour to guide your child towards books suited to them and encourage them to talk to us about how they are getting on and when they feel they need to make a change. This will be monitored each morning during reading time.**

# Welcome to:

# Class 3

# 2023/2024



GULWORTHY  
ACADEMY

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Class 3 to our Year 6 children and Welcome to Class 3 to our new year 5 children. Also a great big welcome to Alice and Jake who join us at Gulworthy this year! Hopefully this leaflet will give some useful information regarding some key questions about being in Class 3. As with every year, some areas may develop, change or be tweaked throughout the year as we identify improvements and enhancements we can make.

### **In Class Support**

We are lucky to have a very hard working and talented team working in Class 3 this year.

**Mornings**— Mrs Hopkins (Class Teaching Assistant), Mr Dalton (Special educational needs teaching assistant supporting specific pupils), Mrs Durkin (Special educational needs teaching assistant supporting specific pupils)

**Afternoons**—Mrs Hopkins (Special needs teaching assistant supporting specific pupils), Mrs D'Silva (Special needs teaching assistant supporting specific pupils)

### **Self responsibility and independence**

One of the key areas we work on in Class 3 is building up independence in the children and encouraging them to take self-responsibility in certain areas. This is vital in the build up to the transition to secondary school at the end of year 6. Areas such as getting their homework diary signed, remembering to complete and bring in homework, ensuring equipment is ready to start the lesson and taking care and responsibility for PE kits and items of their own clothing are just some of the many opportunities where children will be encouraged to be responsible. **As mentioned later on in the leaflet, it is very important that children have a PE kit (including trainers) in school throughout the week as we do not usually have a set day for PE and sometimes the kit will be needed more than once a week.** Your children will also be encouraged to be good role models to younger children in the school.

### **PPA time**

PPA time (planning, preparation and assessment) is time set aside for all teachers in order to complete some of the activities indicated. In Class 3, this means that I will regularly be out of class one afternoon a week. This usually occurs on a Tuesday afternoon and during this time Mrs Mammatt will teach Class 3 Religious Education, Music and French (RE and French one half term and RE and Music the next).

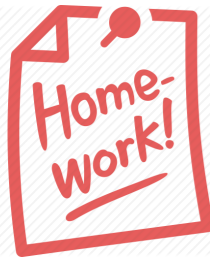
I look forward to an excellent school year with all of your children. I will continue to be on the gate most mornings and afternoons should you want to talk, arrange a time to talk or to pass on a message.

Best wishes,

Simon Medland

Class 3 Teacher

## Homework



Your child's homework will focus mainly on the key areas which are developed most successfully by repeated practise in small bursts: spellings, times tables/ arithmetic (see separate letter) and reading. While we teach these areas frequently in school, the children who make the best progress are the ones that practise the techniques, tips and strategies that we teach in school frequently at home.

Your child will receive a homework journal to record their completion of reading. It will also contain your child's spelling list (more details in spellings section) and most recent spelling test so you can check on their progress. It is important that the journal is brought into school each day so that they can be used in spelling lessons and to check that reading homework is being completed. Please note that five minutes of Golden Time on a Friday is for completing this homework.

Additionally, your child will receive reading comprehension homework approximately every other week. I would ask that children try and complete this independently where possible with motivational support where needed! In class, wherever possible, the children will mark and discuss the homework in an adult led session so that they have an opportunity to focus on any misconceptions they had or questions that they were unable to answer. Your child will bring a book home with the reading section and answer section enclosed. This homework will be give out with usually around 5 or 6 days to complete it (including a weekend)

Occasionally your children will also receive additional homework such as projects or research linked to our work in class and learning lines for performances.

### Start of Year Minimum homework expectations for Year 5 and 6.

**Reading** - Each day for 15 minutes. (5 x 15min sessions)

**Times Tables Rockstars** Each day for 5 minutes (5 x 5min sessions) or Mental Arithmetic workout sheet (You will receive a separate note explaining which for your child).

**Spellings**—Each day for 10 mins (5 x 10min sessions)

**Reading comprehension** — One piece of homework approximately every two weeks

\*As the year progresses, year 6 children will also receive homework to help them prepare for their end of year SATS tests.

## Online Gaming and Messaging Supervision

Over the last few years, we have noticed a markedly increased number of incidents of children reporting becoming upset, falling out and being unkind to each other when playing games such as Fortnite (age rating 12) at home and when messaging each other on apps such as Whatsapp and Snapchat. This ill feeling can then be brought into school and cause learning time to be lost.

I would strongly encourage parents to monitor and supervise all online play and phone use carefully including using restrictions/ parental controls where possible.

## Pencil Cases and Equipment

In Class 3, we provide each child with all the essential equipment for use in class each day. We kindly ask that children use this equipment as opposed to equipment brought in from home. The children are allowed to bring in a small pencil case if they wish (it needs to fit in their tray and allow the tray to close) to hold only this essential equipment as long as it does not prove to be a distraction to them during lessons.

Please note that plentiful colouring pens and pencils are also provided in school for when they are needed.



## Spellings



The children will be given words to learn each Friday which we have been already practising at school during the week. They will be tested the following Friday (in their homework journal) and will therefore focus on the words for two weeks, (firstly at school, then at home).

Year 5/6 will learn their spellings over two years, so that the children repeat the course and focus on the rules and statutory spellings twice. Some children will receive different spellings more suited to their needs or a reduced list.

The words highlighted in yellow are statutory words from the statutory word list which the children are expected to learn and know. These are repeated in our spelling scheme within each year.



If your child is worried about something and would like to talk to an adult in school we realise that this can be daunting and sometimes hard to do discretely. We are always happy to be approached, but for those that don't wish to in person, we have a worry box where children can just write their name and the date on a piece of paper and pop it in. We will check the box each day and do our best to help anyone who needs it.

## Sports Opportunities and Trips this Year

Throughout the year we will compete and take part in various other events arranged by OCRA. We will send details of these out to the children involved as and when they occur. One of the first events we have coming up is the Small School Football tournament which is currently scheduled to take place on our field on the morning of Tuesday 3rd October.

Linked to our History work on the Battle of Britain this term, we will also be visiting Yelverton Aerodrome for a day of activities led by the RAF Harrowbeer archivist, looking at memorabilia, learning about the blitz and performing fieldwork looking for evidence and clues that still remain from the area's past as RAF Harrowbeer.



## Please have P.E. Kits in school throughout the week

P.E. takes place in class each week with the day(s) depending on the weather and other events. Please ensure your child has a full P.E. kit, including trainers, available in school all week so that they are able to take part fully. Please note that plimsolls or boots are not suitable for PE lessons in Class 3 as they usually take place on the field or the playground.