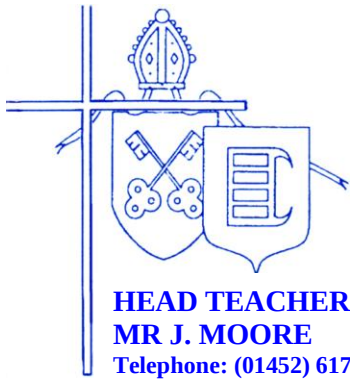




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September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back!

I would like to warmly welcome you all back to a new school year and I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break! Year 3 is an important year, especially as it marks the beginning of your child's life in Key Stage 2, children are now expected to become more independent with their organisation and positive attitude to learning. I hope we can support them together to achieve this.

Our class topic this term is 'Hunter Gatherers', a historical based topic exploring Prehistory. We will focus on The Stone Age, The Bronze Age and The Iron Age, which will also be incorporated into English and other foundation subjects, where possible. We will be going on a school trip to Stroud Museum to explore artefacts and take part in activities around the Stone Age. We will also be borrowing some artefacts from The Wilson Museum in Cheltenham, which will greatly enhance their learning and contribute significantly to their school work.

Mrs Gent, my learning partner, supports Y3 Monday to Thursday. We are also very lucky to have Mrs Harper joining Y3 this year for further support. They will be supporting with extra groups for Maths and English work. Mrs Gisby will teach RE and French on Thursday afternoons to cover my PPA (planning, preparation, and assessment time).

English will focus on reading for pleasure and comprehension skills as we move from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'.

There are two shifts in focus when teaching children to read and, whilst for some this happens on an individual basis (according to need), in general the change happens between KS1 and KS2.

From Reception to Year 2 we focus on early reading development, including phonics and high-frequency sight vocabulary. This phase is about teaching children how to read. During this time, adults will frequently listen to children read as they are assessing pace, fluency, accuracy and expression. In KS1, it is very typical for comments from staff to appear in reading records as this is the skill they are assessing.

However, when they enter KS2, everything changes in line with their development. Once children have mastered fluency (which will be the majority) they are then taught the skill of *reading to learn*. Phonics sessions will still be in place for those children who need them.



Reading comprehension is the skill assessed throughout KS2, where children learn to read for meaning. It is therefore less common for children to be heard read individually as they are now taught as a whole class or in small groups. The focus is on teaching and learning the 6 reading domains, known as **VIPERS**:

Vocabulary
Inference
Prediction
Explanation
Retrieval
Squencing or summary

VIPERS lessons happen daily, and reading is a golden thread throughout our curriculum so opportunities to be heard read or to hear others read is frequent. To this end, children do not need to bring reading books unless they need changing, which we are happy to do daily. Please continue to read at home at least three times a week as this has a **huge** impact. If your child is reading independently, they can record this themselves in their Reading Records (only one entry per day please- if they read several times only record in one box) and ensure reading records are brought in on **Fridays every week** so the children can be rewarded for their efforts.

Maths will build on basic skills with a focus this term on place value, addition and subtraction. Multiplication tables are also vital and TimesTables Rock Stars is a great way to practise these so please ensure this is completed at home.

In Science will be looking at Rocks and Pulleys, and Levers.

Our values this term are, 'Respect' and 'Generosity'. In RE we will be looking at '*What might Christians learn from the Old Testament about how to live?*' and '*Why Muhammad is important to Muslims Today*'.

PE will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays (when swimming lessons have finished) from week commencing 21st September, and will focus on gymnastics and invasion games.

- On **Mondays**, we will have gymnastics and children should **bring shorts and t-shirt to change into** (we will work in bare feet).
- On **Wednesdays**, children may **come to school wearing PE uniform**: team-coloured t-shirts, dark shorts, joggers and trainers. Wednesday PE lessons will take outside as frequently as possible so please ensure they wrap up warm with sweatshirts, jackets and waterproof coats. We would encourage them to bring a spare pair of socks along in case theirs get wet during PE.

Computing will focus on Internet safety and programming.

In CPSHE, we will be thinking about Emotional Well-Being and Rules and Rights.

Homework will be set for Reading, Timetables Rockstars and Ed Shed(spelling). Logins will be in home-school books for your reference. Please let me know if you experience any difficulties logging on. Class Dojo is up and running so please connect if you haven't yet done so.

Please be aware KS2 children need to bring their own snack to school for morning breaktime. Their snack should consist of fresh or dried fruit only (no nuts please due to allergies) and school water bottles only please.

Key Stage 2 also opens up more extra-curricular activities. Please look out for emails with information and consent form links for clubs. *(For your information, sport clubs commencing soon are Netball Club, taking place on Fridays and Football Club on Wednesdays but children can only attend after parents have completed the online consent form which will be emailed to parents via ParentMail imminently).*

A Class Welcome Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 15th September at 8:30am** so please join us if you can (children may come into class for this too).

If, at any time, you have concerns regarding your child or wish to discuss anything, then please do not hesitate to phone or email the school office to contact me.

Kind Regards

Miss Joyce

Year 3 Class Teacher