

Welcome to Simmonds Class!

I am very excited to have a new group of Year 3 's joining the of us this year. I am sure they will settle in quickly to learning here at St Augustine's. This coming year will be packed with fun activities, wonderful experiences and lots of learning.

Our topic this Autumn will be WWI and we will be acknowledging the commemoration of 100 years since WW1 as a class and joining the whole school for a variety of activities. 'Life in A Trench' will be central to our learning; we will learn WWI songs, learn about the role of animals on the front line, including our local hero Jimmy the Donkey. As always, we will have a class reading book that we will share together 'The Trenches' by Jim Eldridge, a wonderful story of friendship and the lives of soldiers in a WW1 trench. Our traditional Christmas Nativity will have a twist this year as we will be retelling the nativity through the eyes of the soldiers in the trenches whilst also retelling the story of the 1914 Christmas Armistice.

During the Spring term, our topic will be The Bronze Age, we are excited to be going to Flag Fen to experience what life was like during this era. A WOW day has been planned to immerse the children in the lives of Bronze Age tribesmen. The children will compare the lives of Bronze Age people and modern day. As a class, we will create our own settlement, with each class member having their own job! Our Class book will be an adventure book about a boy called Tenko who is a stranger to Skara Brae, 'The Boy with a Bronze Axe' by Kathleen Fidler.

The Summer term will see us learning about What the Romans did for us. Our WOW day will consist of going to Peterborough Museum and Italian Food tasting day. The Thieves Ostia by Caroline Lawrence will be our class book.

Our Maths lessons will start by looking at place value before moving on to understanding the 4 operations learning how to add, subtract, divide and multiply mentally and using the formal written method. As the year progresses we will move onto fractions, measures and shape. Year 3 will be trialling an exciting new app to learn our times tables called Times Table Rockstars and, if we enjoy using it, it will then be introduced to the whole school.

Our Science will be learning about skeletons and diet, Rocks and Soils, Electricity and States of Matter.

Year 3 will be the first year group to experience Forest School with Mrs Grange in the school paddock where they will be introduced to a variety of skills including making observations of wildlife, taking reasonable risks, team-work and den building. The children will also learn Italian through Art with Mrs Prezioso, and PE with Mr Clarke our Sports coach.

In May there will be the opportunity to take part in a residential trip at Rand Farm in the Lincolnshire Wolds where they will stay overnight, learn about farm animals, have ice cream tasting, take part in a variety of activities and then take part in the morning farm routine - collecting eggs for their breakfast for example.

Useful information

Our teaching assistant is Mrs Beales
PE is on a Tuesday (this could change at any time so please ensure kits are in school every day).
Please ensure kits are clearly named.

We encourage children to read regularly and children will receive house points for recording their reading in their reading record book. Now children are in KS2, they can do this independently, however, we would ask that you sign the reading record weekly to show that you have acknowledged your child has read. Children should bring their recording record book into school every day. Thank you. We will be introducing the Accelerated Reader Programme, the children will be expected to do a reading quiz when they finish their book.

Homework will be given out on Fridays and is due in on Thursdays. Please encourage your child to do the challenge questions set. If they wish, they may attend the weekly homework club to complete their homework.

Children will be lining up in the morning on the playground and will be going into the classroom to complete their morning activity at 8.40am. They will be collected from our classroom at 3 pm.

I am really looking forward to the new year and we have planned.

Ms Townsend