

St John and St James  
C of E Primary School  
Class Newsletter

Dear parents and carers of children in Year 3, welcome back to SJSJ and 2026!

Year 3 have had an amazing first week back at school! We are looking forward to all the progress they are going to continue to make this new year.

Adults working in Year 3 this term

Mrs Barrett  
Miss Kebbay

Humanities – History



This term we will be basing our learning around the exciting topic of Ancient Egypt!

The key question we'll focus on is:  
*Why were the Ancient Egyptians so successful?*

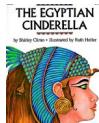
Throughout the topic, Year 3 will research significant people in Ancient Egypt, such as Tutankhamun and Cleopatra, as well as looking at the significance and history of the Great Pyramids.

The people of Egypt had strong religious beliefs which influenced their day to day lifestyles and it is the beliefs and the subsequent actions of the Ancient Egyptians which we will then become our focus.

We will also look at the life style of The Ancient Egyptians and discuss the similarities and differences of these important roles (Pharaohs, Viziers and High priests etc.) with roles in today's society.

## Writing

Year 3's writing will be inspired by our Ancient Egyptian history topic. Our pieces of writing will be based on *The Egyptian Cinderella* by Shirley Climo.



We will write character descriptions to describe the main character, Rhodopis. We will use a range of prepositions to describe key features of the setting and Rhodopis.

Following on from that, we will be using the text to write a narrative with an alternative ending using a range of -ing clauses.

## PE



PE will take place on **Wednesday** afternoons.

Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit each week. This term's focus is **Gymnastics**.

## Music

This half term, Year 3 will be exploring Staff Notation, using the Glockenspiel. They will be focusing on pitch, high and low and start reading simple melodies.



## Spanish

This half term, our focus will be:

**Myself**

We will learn how to say our birthday and favourite colours using the correct pronunciation.



## PSHE

Our values focus this half term is:  
**Dream and Goals**.



We will be looking at examples of how people have overcome challenges in achieving their goals and what we can learn from these examples. Year 3 will identify their personal dreams and goals, and what steps need to be taken in order to be successful in achieving them.

## Science



In science we will be learning about **Animals including Humans** for the whole of the Spring term.

Throughout this unit we will be investigating what a healthy diet consists of and why having a healthy diet is important.

We will then learn about human and animal skeletons, the functions of bones and how animal skeletons are similar and different.

Our key scientist is **Marie Maynard Daly**, who is known for her research on how cholesterol and sugars effect the body.



## Reading

In our reading lessons, we will continue to read a variety of quality fiction, non-fiction texts and answer comprehension questions about them.

Thank you for reading daily with your child at home. Children are expected to read for **20 minutes each night** and **record a summary** of what they have read in their reading records.

Please make sure your child brings in to school their school **reading book** and **reading record** every day.

Book change days are Monday to Thursday during Lunch time (12:30- 13:00)



## Computing

This half term, we will be learning how to sequence sounds using **Scratch**.

They will use motion, sound and event blocks to sequence and create their own programmes.



## Dates for the Diary

**Thursday 15th January**  
National Portrait Gallery

**Friday 6th February**  
National Gallery

## Maths

We will focus on two topics this half term:

**Multiplication and Division**  
**Length and Perimeter**

We will use our times table knowledge and understanding of partitioning to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.

We will then move towards using centimetres, millimetres and metres to measure lengths.

Please continue to encourage your children to practice their times tables at home. A great way to do this is on **Times Table Rockstars**.



## RE

In RE we will be focusing on **Judaism**.

Our learning this half term will be guided towards answering our key question:  
**What does it mean to be Jewish?**

Throughout this topic we will be exploring the significance of the ten commandments for Jewish people, as well as the importance of Passover and Seder meal.



## Homework

Homework will be uploaded onto **Google Classroom** each Friday. This will be a document that consists of the 10 spelling words, the maths focus and the grammar focus.

The children will be tested on the spelling words the following Friday.

All children will receive a homework book in which they can complete their homework in, this book is to stay at