

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

A huge welcome back and happy new year to you all, I hope that 2018 brings happiness, health and laughter for you all. Thank you all so much for all the lovely gifts and beautiful cards over Christmas, they were very much appreciated. As we begin the spring term it is a great opportunity to look back at how far the children have come and all of their successes in the first term of Year Three. For all of the children the Autumn Term brought harder work, higher expectations and an increase in independence; I am very proud of every single one of them as they all stepped up and started the year off brilliantly. They all took their new learning experiences in their stride and took huge leaps in confidence and the ability to try and try again even when things got a little tough. I hope this continues this term, with even more success for every child. A very exciting term lies ahead of us, with some very important dates for your diary below.

Spring Term Curriculum

The table below gives an overview of the different units/themes that will be covered in Year 3 this term, with the best interests some plans are subject to change due to other factors, so this may be changed and updated:

	<u>Spring 1</u>		<u>Spring 2</u>	
Maths	Measure Measuring lengths, mass and volume using a range of units of measure. Developing competency with money.	Shapes Drawing 2-D shapes and recognising and making 3-D shapes recognising 3-D shapes. Measuring the perimeter of 2-D shapes	Fractions Finding halves, quarters, tenths, thirds and fifths of numbers as well as ordering fractions.	
Literacy	Newspaper Articles Writing reports of events, including newspaper articles. Focusing on the book, Billionaire Boy	Letters Looking at the writing techniques needed to write letters and writing our own letters focused on the book, Billionaire Boy	Poetry Looking at a range of different poetry, creating our own and performing these.	
Science	Animals, Including Humans Focusing on the reasons why animals including humans need skeletons and muscles to move, protect and support their bodies. Looking at nutrition and how to keep ourselves healthy as well as how other animals receive nutrition.		Light Exploring what happens when light reflects off a mirror or other reflective surfaces. Focus on shadows, finding out how they are formed, how light changes impact these and what might cause the shadows to change	
RE	Christmas Looking at the importance of the crib at Christmas time and the work of Saint Francis Assisi. Discovering why the shepherds are important in the Christmas story and their role in the tradition of Christmas.	Listening to God's word Thinking about why we listen during mass and what we find out during the Liturgy of the Word. Explore the value and importance of listening to a responding to the Word of God in scriptures. Discuss stories from the Bible.	Lent To understand the season of Lent and why we change to be more like Jesus during this time. Explore a range of stories about Jesus which brought change into people's lives who were sick and in need of help.	
Geography	Leaving on a Jet Plane Exploring different countries and continents. Introducing new geographical vocabulary to locate countries and cities around the world. Use grid references to plan different journeys and identify countries in the Northern hemisphere.			
History	The Roman Empire		The Anglo-Saxons	
PE	Monday - Dodgeball Friday – Gymnastics		Monday – Fitness Friday – Gaelic Football	

Homework

Reading: A gentle reminder that as per the Home School Agreement, children should be being heard read by an adult at least 3 times a week for around 10-15 minutes. Reading is vital to developing children's imagination and creativity. It is also an imperative element of being able to access all parts of the curriculum and learning within the classroom. For this reason it is given a very high focus and priority. All reading should be recorded in your child's reading record. The reading book and record needs to be brought into school every day, and will be signed on a Monday by myself or Miss Fox.

Times tables: Children should also be practising their times tables on a daily basis at home. Times tables are essential to your child's development in Numeracy, with all areas of numeracy needing quick and accurate recall of multiplication facts. By the end of year three children are expected to be able to recall with speed and accuracy the 2x, 3x, 5x, 10x, 6x and 8x tables. Times tables will be practised and checked at school, but children should be spending time on these at home as well to develop their recall and accuracy.

Spellings: Spellings will be given out on a Friday and tested on the following Wednesday to ensure that children are given the opportunity to practise these. Spellings at the start of term will be based on repeated inaccuracies of spellings found in words used daily. With spellings then differentiated based on reflection of individual child's spellings within lessons and following the scheme of spellings in place as a school policy.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Communion

These sacraments are fast approaching and the children have been in preparation for these since September, the Sacramental preparation is continuing this year and we expect to see all of the children receiving the sacrament, with their parents there each week this is on. This is only one Sunday a month and these sessions are vital to ensure the children are all prepared for the sacraments. We hope that you will continue to support this process this year, as the children's next steps into the Catholic faith will soon be here. The date for First Reconciliation is **Saturday 19th May 2018**, and the First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June 2018**.

Key dates for your diary:

Sunday 4th February 2018 (9am) - Sacramental family meeting followed by mass

Tuesday 13th February 2018 (9.15am) – Year Three Valentine's Day Assembly

Wednesday 14^h February 2018- Mid-Year Report Cards

Friday 16th February 2018 – Teacher Training Day (followed by half term)

Monday 26th February 2018- Back to school and Year Three trip to **Lunt Fort**

Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th February 2018 - Open Evening

Sunday 18th March 2018 - Sacramental family meeting followed by mass

Thursday 22nd March 2018 -Year Three and Four Easter Play

Thursday 29th March 2018 – Last day of the Spring Term

Monday 16^h April 2018– First day back

As this New Year begins, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support the last term and hope that this continues this year. Hopefully this spring term will be even more successful than last term and the children will continue to progress, grow and develop as the year goes on, I am very much looking forward to sharing this next term with them, full of fun, laughter and learning. I will continue to create every opportunity possible at school for the children to achieve and I am sure you will work to support me with this, to ensure the children are happy, healthy and confident individuals in the year ahead. As always, if there are any concerns do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Miss R. Corkerry