



ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL

NURSERY - INFANTS - JUNIORS - SENIORS



YEAR 3

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

2022-23



AT ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL
EVERYONE IS VALUED, EVERYONE IS SOMEONE



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Welcome to Year 3

This booklet aims to give you a brief idea of what life is like in Year 3 and the work your daughter will be covering.

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General Information

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Routines

Girls are based with their form teacher in their form room for most of the day but will visit specialist teachers for other lessons. Each girl will be given a timetable and, initially, will be helped to find their way around the building. They get used to it surprisingly quickly.

Each day begins and ends with the form teacher in the form room. This time is used partly for administration and partly for sharing concerns or triumphs on an informal basis.

Each girl has a school planner in which she will write her homework and any general reminders. This provides a useful contact with parents and can be used to send messages to and from home. Please check it regularly, sign it every week and make sure that your daughter brings it to school with her every day.

We try to encourage girls in Year 3 to begin the day independently as soon as possible and therefore ask parents to work towards saying goodbye at the outside door as soon as possible.

Keeping in Touch

There is an opportunity to meet formally with your daughter's form teacher on Monday 3rd October. On this occasion you will be asked to make an appointment with the form teacher. Other staff will be also be available to speak to you. There will also be another parent's evening in the Spring Term.

You will receive one formal written report at the end of the Summer Term and a grade sheet at the end of the Autumn and Spring Terms.

If you need to make contact at other times, it is usually best to write a note in your daughter's planner or contact the office to make an appointment with whichever teacher you wish to see.

Form teachers are always happy to speak to parents with concerns. Brief conversations can sometimes be had by arrangement at the beginning or end of the day.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Staff provide a variety of clubs during lunch time. Girls are asked to express a preference. Once activities have been agreed, girls are expected to attend every week. Activities change each term and cover a wide range including music, sport and craft.

After-school activities (including homework club) are organised and are booked on the online booking system advance of each term so that girls can sign up for those activities they wish to attend.



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Homework

Girls are set one homework each night. This may be a written task, learning, for example spellings, or a topic to research.

Please bear the following points in mind:

- Set tasks are normally intended to be completed by the girls alone and they should be encouraged to think for themselves. Parents should, however, be prepared to offer constructive help if required.
- It is usually helpful to maintain a routine for homework.
- With proper concentration, homework should take no longer than the time stated, although, enthusiasm to continue should not be discouraged.
- You may occasionally find that your daughter is not able to complete her homework, maybe because she has misunderstood something. You may choose to help her or to send the work back to school incomplete. In either case, please write a note to the teacher so that we are aware that your daughter needs extra support or explanation.
- Girls are expected to hand homework in each day on arrival at school. If homework is regularly missing, late or incomplete, staff will notify parents via the school planner. Girls will usually be asked to complete missing work.
- **Reading and Times Tables**
The girls are encouraged to read regularly to an adult and practise their times tables so that they can instantly recall multiplication facts.

Examinations

School examinations take place the week before the summer half term. There are examinations in English, Mathematics and Science. In Year Three, school examinations are seen mainly as an opportunity for the children to become familiar with formal testing procedures.

They often find examinations daunting at first and staff are aware that the girls do not always show their true potential on this occasion. Girls will be introduced to the idea of revision and given a booklet a few weeks prior to the examinations. This booklet gives general advice and also subject-specific guidance as to what should be revised.

Results are given back in the form of percentages soon after the end of the examination procedure. Results are formally reported within the main report at the end of the year.



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Equipment

Girls should have the following equipment in school with them every day. All items should be clearly named.

- 30cm ruler
- pencils (at least 3)
- pencil sharpener
- coloured pencils
- glue stick
- scissors (metal blades)
- rubber
- a dictionary (Oxford Primary Dictionary recommended)



Uniform and sports equipment lists are available separately from the school office. Please contact the office if you are unsure. It is especially important that clothing is clearly named, as it is often impossible to distinguish between the uniform of different girls.

Special Events

There are several events during the year which girls are expected to attend. The first Open Morning is on 1st October. Girls will need to be available on these days and will be participating in activities for some of this time. If your daughter is unable to attend, please notify the school office.

There is a Junior Music Evening held in the Spring Term which girls are also expected to attend. The dates of these events will be found on the termly calendars, issued at the beginning of each term.

There are lots of other events which take place during school hours such as house competitions, internal concerts, theatre workshops, sports day and fundraising activities.



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Challenging the Able

It is important that each child should achieve their full potential in every lesson. During each lesson children who have achieved the set learning objective will be given extension activities. These tasks may be on a related topic or be problem solving activities designed to improve a range of thinking skills, from fact finding and researching, to promoting new and inventive ideas. This will enhance children's creativity and finally bring all the aspects of a problem together to arrive at a solution.

Progress will be monitored carefully and teachers will ensure a balanced range of activities, while ensuring that every child is supported and encouraged.

Curriculum Support

Some children may require additional support which will be provided by differentiation within lessons as well as by the curriculum support department.

Pupils' need for support can vary depending on the topic studied and we aim to provide for individual requirements as they become apparent. As a result curriculum support groups are flexible.

Curriculum Support can take several forms: small group lessons on a weekly basis, a short intensive programme or, for those not requiring formal support, there is an opportunity to practise mental mathematics and spelling skills. Pupils are recommended for support by the teachers, based on their performance in testing and during normal lessons. Parents are always informed before formal curriculum support lessons are started, though children may be encouraged to attend the 'top-up' sessions on a more informal basis.



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Art

Art is taught in the Art Block where there are specialised facilities. Girls experience and are taught techniques appropriate to a variety of media including paint, pastel, clay and charcoal.

Some of the work is inspired by the Ancient Cultures studied in history. Other topics covered are linked to established artists such as Monet and Van Gogh.

All of these activities are directed towards engaging the children in the creative process.

Design Technology

Through a variety of design and make tasks the girls develop their skills in construction and use a wide range of different materials. They gain experience in using templates, cutting accurately with scissors and working with tools.

For some topics they generate design ideas individually, while for others they work in co-operation with a partner, learning to share ideas and tasks, listen to opinions and reach agreement on the way forward. Topics may be linked to other subjects in the curriculum.

Design Technology gives the opportunity for practical and social skills' development in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Drama

Pupils are introduced to Drama with two lessons per week, using costumes, props, staging, lighting and sound. Through enjoyable sessions, they develop confidence in vocal, physical, co-ordination and dance skills and soon relish the opportunity to perform to an audience. They also learn how to work as a team and how to become good and attentive members of an audience.

All pupils will participate in the Junior Christmas production. Script work is introduced using a variety of amusing plays. The Summer Term begins with pupils working individually in order to develop their sight reading skills. The work culminates in the writing and performing of their own, short play scripts.



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English

Girls are taught in form groups. During each week they will read and discuss a variety of texts and learn about basic parts of speech, while also consolidating and extending knowledge of sentence punctuation. They will also work on pieces of extended writing.

Spelling is taught following the National Curriculum programme of study where the focus is on letter patterns and sounds, empowering the girls to make the correct choices. Phonic activities will be undertaken regularly.

The girls will have a reading book and library books which they will bring home regularly. Please try to find time to read and discuss the book with your daughter on a regular basis. As girls progress through the year they will begin to choose independently from the library. It is still valuable to read and discuss books with your daughter at this stage. Mrs Moller, and Mrs Hoskin along with the class prefects will also listen to your daughter read.

In addition, a dedicated reading time has been added to the timetable.

DEAR Time (Drop Everything And Read) takes place at 1.45pm. While the girls are reading, the class teacher will have the opportunity to listen to individuals reading.



French and Mandarin

French and Mandarin are taught using an interactive oral approach. Children will be involved in a wide variety of activities including songs, games and role play.



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Geography

In Year 3 girls are taught to use and understand plans and maps. They will develop their Global General Knowledge. Girls will study Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

They will carry out a study of the local area including a visit to Odiham. The girls will also find out about the history of the school. During the Autumn Term there will be a trip to Finkley Down Farm where the girls will look at different types of environments. They will also investigate a variety of habitats to link in with work done in Science.

History

After a brief introduction to the subject, involving work on time lines and the importance of evidence, the girls spend the year exploring different aspects of life in Ancient Britain and Ancient Egypt.

Girls are encouraged to use some basic historical vocabulary such as 'evidence', 'source' and 'archaeologist'.

During the Spring Term the girls visit Stonehenge and during the Summer Term they take part in an Egyptian day.

Information Technology

ICT skills are taught in dedicated lessons and are applied throughout the curriculum. Lessons are tailored to fit the abilities of each group and will focus on skills necessary for presenting their work.



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Mathematics

Year 3 children are currently taught in form groups for Mathematics. All girls cover the core work but reinforcement and extension material will also be used as appropriate. Children are expected to know a variety of facts.

During the year they will be learning to recall quickly:

- Addition and subtraction facts for each number to 100
- Multiples of 100 which total 1000
- Multiples of 5 which total 100
- Multiplication facts for the 2,3,4,5,10 times-tables
- Division facts corresponding to known times-tables
- Doubles of whole numbers to at least 20
- Doubles of multiples of 5 to 100
- Doubles of multiples of 50 to 500
- All the corresponding halves.

Girls will also build on their understanding of the following topics through daily lessons. Girls will be given regular opportunities to apply their knowledge in problem solving situations.

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Metric units of measure
- Time (12 hour clock analogue and digital)
- Shape and space
- Handling data

If you are unsure about the methods your child has been taught, please ask her teacher or use the Calculations Policy which we will provide.



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Music

Year 3 pupils have two form music lessons per week in the Music Room. In these lessons, they sing, learn to play the ocarina and follow a structured music course which breaks down into three units: Animal Magic, Exploring Rhythmic Patterns and Painting With Sound.

Over the academic year, the children develop their abilities to create, read, write, perform and analyse short compositions both individually and as part of a group. All girls have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular musical activities, including the Junior Choir. Girls who play orchestral instruments will also have the opportunity to join the Junior Orchestra.

Physical Education

All pupils have three sports lessons every week. One double games lesson and one single PE lesson. The double games lesson is also known as their games afternoon; it is on a Thursday and provides the opportunity for them to play some inter-school fixtures against local independent schools, which you are welcome to support. Matches in the Autumn Term will be in netball, hockey and football in the Spring Term and cricket in the Summer Term. There are inter-house matches in these sports too throughout the year and a Sports Day in the Summer Term.

Sports lessons take place either outside on the field, courts, astro or in the sports hall where the girls will experience a variety of activities with specialist teachers. Additional to this there are a range of sporting extra-curricular clubs each term for the pupils to attend as well.

The pupils will build on their fundamental skills and physical literacy and learn the basic principles of invasion sports. In addition to the core sports named above the pupils will have the opportunity to take part in activities such as; basketball, athletics, tennis, health related fitness, cross country, gymnastics. Through physical activity pupils will develop valuable life skills such as; teamwork, communication, resilience, empathy and confidence. They can learn the value of perseverance and learning from their experiences.





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Personal, Social and Health Education

This is formally taught once a week in Year 3. PSHE contributes to how the girls learn and focuses on the physical, moral, social and vocational self. Throughout the year the following topics will be covered: behaviour, relationships, self – esteem, peer pressure, health, exercise, family life and moral dilemmas.

The girls will have the opportunity to discuss their own feelings and ideas as well as listen to the opinions of others.

Additionally, PSHE will often take place informally during form periods with their form teacher.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies in Year 3 begins with an exploration of the ways that signs and symbols are used in religion. Girls then go on to study the biblical accounts of the birth of Jesus and investigate the importance of the Bible for Christians. The year concludes with work on important Old Testament figures.

The girls will visit Crondall Church as part of their studies. Girls not only learn about aspects of religious life but also try to understand why these are important for religious people and are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs and priorities.

Science

Girls are taught in form groups. In Year 3, girls cover the topics Animals and their Habitats, Teeth and Eating, Materials and their Properties, Magnets and Springs, Plant Life, Light and Shadows and Rocks.

We aim to encourage girls' interest and enthusiasm for science by developing their awareness of science in the world around them. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in observation as well as carrying out investigations. Cross-curricular links, particularly with maths and ICT, are actively pursued.

During the Autumn Term the girls will visit Finkley Down Farm to look at animals and their habitats and teeth and eating. During the Summer Term the girls will visit RHS Wisley as part of their study of plant life.



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