

**St James the Great R C Primary School**  
**Year 3 Newsletter**

4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year at school. We hope you had a great summer. In Year 3 your child will have the following members of staff working in the class: Ms Jayawardhana, Mrs Mc Namara and Ms Feese. We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

There will be a “Meet the teacher” meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 from 9-9.30am in the Annex. The meeting will cover expectations for Year 3 and give parents an opportunity for discussion about any concerns or queries.

**It is important that the children read every day and they should bring in their reading books and book bags every day.** They have Home/School books that go home and in school we use these books to write about your child's reading. We would like parents to use the books to write about their child's reading at home. Please note that most children in Year 3 will now be taking part in a whole class reading session, where we will be working on reading skills together. Therefore, reading for pleasure books will only be changed on a weekly basis, however, the children are encouraged to read books from the book corner, your local library and newspapers/ magazines.

**PE will take place on Thursdays and Dance on Fridays.** The kit comprises of a white PE shirt, black plimsolls/trainers, black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings. **Please put your child's name on the PE Kit and also their uniform, this makes it much easier for lost items to be returned to their owners.** **Swimming** starts for Year 3 this week. Swimming lessons **will be on Friday** and the children will need their **swimming costume and a towel** on that day. Swimming goggles and hats are optional.

Homework will consist of Maths, reading, spellings and grammar and timetables. Spellings will be given out on Mondays and homework will be given out on Fridays and expected in the following Monday. During the week along with daily reading, please encourage your children to learn their spellings. These could be learnt through practice of look (read), cover, spell and then check. A spelling test will be given to children on Friday.

**This term, a key focus will be on developing handwriting skills.**

To support your child's progress, we encourage you to continue practising at home. A few helpful tips for good handwriting include:

- **Posture:** Ensure your child is sitting upright with both feet flat on the floor.
- **Grip:** Encourage a relaxed but firm pencil grip using the thumb, index, and middle fingers.
- **Paper position:** The paper should be tilted slightly, depending on whether your child is right- or left-handed.
- **Letter formation:** Remind your child to form letters from top to bottom and left to right.
- **Spacing:** Encourage leaving equal spaces between words for clarity.
- **Slow and steady:** Quality is more important than speed—neatness will improve with practice.

Your support at home makes a big difference, and we appreciate your partnership in helping children develop clear, confident handwriting.









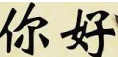

As the term continues there may be times that the timetable will need to change, so please allow for this. If you have any queries concerning the above, please make an appointment through the office to discuss this with the class team. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jayawardhana, Class Teacher



## Year 3's Topics:

<b>English</b> 	In Literacy this half term we will be starting the year with a whole school book, 'Here We Are'. After that one of the books we will be looking at is 'Leon and the Place Between,' which is a very interesting story set in a magical, imaginary world. The children will be given many writing opportunities with a focus on creativity. For our poetry unit we are looking at the cautionary tale 'Jim'. The children will learn more about rhyme and homophones.
<b>Maths</b> 	We will be starting by looking at place value and ordering numbers before moving on to addition and subtraction in the second and third week. Following this we will be moving on to multiplication, fractions, time and geometry.
<b>Science</b> 	Magnets and Forces – in this science topic we will be carrying out many fun experiments. We will observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials.
<b>RE</b> 	We start our year off, by looking at family and home in our topic 'Domestic Church' before moving on to learning about Baptism and then Advent.
<b>PSHE</b> 	We will learn about successful teamwork skills, being considerate of others in the team and how to positively resolve any conflicts that occur. The children will also learn about their individual responsibilities towards teams they work in and how new starts, such as starting a new school year, may feel and how they can support each other in this.
<b>Geography</b> 	Across this term we will be looking at two topics. We will begin with North America-USA. The children will build on their mapping skills and the use of an 8-point compass. Our second topic is Extreme Earth, the children will learn about the causes and consequences of volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and tornadoes.
<b>Art</b> 	In this drawing and collage unit, children will develop their drawing skills and learn how to observe and draw the features of a face. They will learn how lines and shapes help us draw realistic facial features. They will learn about drawing textures and be inspired by the work of multiple artists they will encounter again throughout their primary studies.
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	During the second half of this term the children will design and make a photo frame. They will be looking at structure of photo frames and how they can recreate this.
<b>Computing</b> 	Children will develop their understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. They will also compare digital and non-digital devices. Next, they will be introduced to computer networks, including devices that make up a network's infrastructure, such as wireless access points and switches. Finally learners will discover the benefits of connecting devices in a network.
<b>Mandarin</b> 	Mandarin will be led by a specialist teacher. The children will begin to learn how to say hello and introduce themselves to others. They will then move on to learning how to pronounce the names of their different family members.
<b>PE</b> 	In PE this half term the main focus of our lessons will be on developing passing and movement skills as well as team work and communication. Year 3 will also be taking part in dance this year, which will be led by a trained professional.