



Class 3 Newsletter - September 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Class 3 and to another academic year! I hope you are all well and have had a fantastic summer (I look forward to hearing all the stories) and that your children are feeling rejuvenated and excited about joining Key Stage 2.

As I'm sure you are aware, I am new to Bliss this year and I am very much looking forward to embarking on my teaching career within this wonderful school, and to teaching your child this coming year, along with Mrs Brown, who will be Class 3's Teaching Assistant.

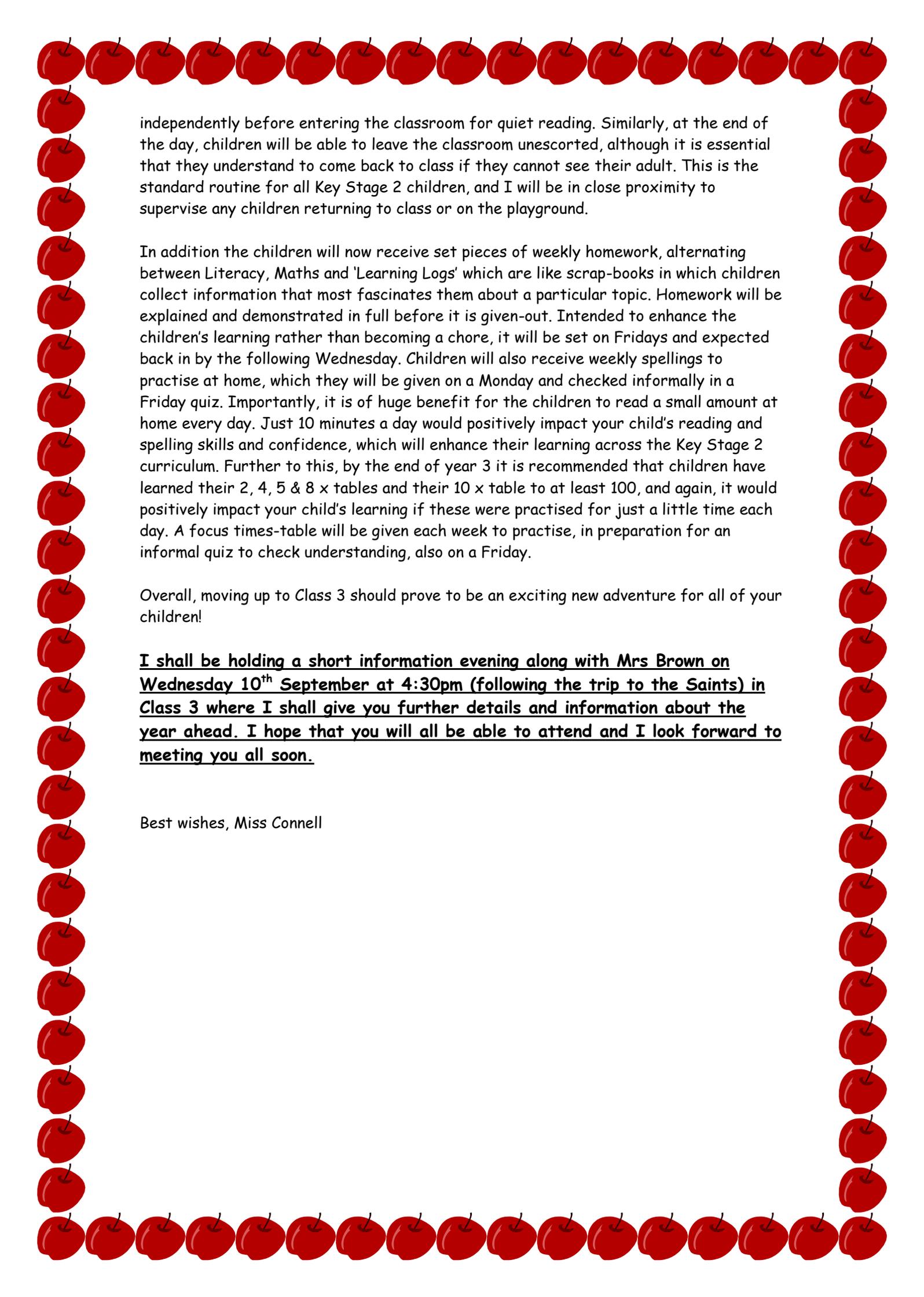
To start off the year, the children in Class 3 will be embarking on an exciting historical journey to 'Ancient Egypt' (our first topic), within which the children will cover the key skills and objectives required by the new National Curriculum for Geography, History, Art and DT, by learning where Egypt is in the world and discovering what life was like for its ancient inhabitants, including studying their Gods, Pharaohs and ordinary people. In Art and DT, the children will -amongst other things- create sunset-silhouettes and explore Egyptian patterns, hieroglyphics and jewellery. In science, the children will be able to investigate and explore the natural wonders of light and shadow and in RE will - until Christmas- be studying 'Christianity in Action' in which they will engage in discussions about the difference made by Christians towards addressing some problems in the UK today. Links to the topic of 'Ancient Egypt' will be made where possible in all subjects.

The children have been put into flexible groups for Numeracy, Writing, Reading as well as having set table or 'home' group, which will form their working group during topic lessons as well as having set weeks for the opportunity to 'show and tell'. Our first Literacy unit will be based around stories with familiar settings.

Some exciting changes, now that the children are entering Class 3 are that they will begin to learn French. These early language lessons will immerse the children in a fun and interactive way, as they listen to real French recordings and imitate the basic words and phrases. The children will also have individual trays within the classroom in which they can keep reading books and worksheets, as well as having coat pegs outside the classroom. Coats, book bags and cardigans/jumpers must be kept on their named peg and there is space for packed lunches just below each one.

PE kits will be needed on Wednesdays and Thursdays this year and with winter months approaching it would be great if they could begin to bring in warmer kit and more enclosed trainers from now on.

As the children are now entering Key Stage 2, we try to encourage more independence, in particular when dropping your child off at school in the morning and collecting them in the afternoon. When the morning bell rings, please drop your child off within the school gate after which children can enter the new doors and put their own items away



independently before entering the classroom for quiet reading. Similarly, at the end of the day, children will be able to leave the classroom unescorted, although it is essential that they understand to come back to class if they cannot see their adult. This is the standard routine for all Key Stage 2 children, and I will be in close proximity to supervise any children returning to class or on the playground.

In addition the children will now receive set pieces of weekly homework, alternating between Literacy, Maths and 'Learning Logs' which are like scrap-books in which children collect information that most fascinates them about a particular topic. Homework will be explained and demonstrated in full before it is given-out. Intended to enhance the children's learning rather than becoming a chore, it will be set on Fridays and expected back in by the following Wednesday. Children will also receive weekly spellings to practise at home, which they will be given on a Monday and checked informally in a Friday quiz. Importantly, it is of huge benefit for the children to read a small amount at home every day. Just 10 minutes a day would positively impact your child's reading and spelling skills and confidence, which will enhance their learning across the Key Stage 2 curriculum. Further to this, by the end of year 3 it is recommended that children have learned their 2, 4, 5 & 8 x tables and their 10 x table to at least 100, and again, it would positively impact your child's learning if these were practised for just a little time each day. A focus times-table will be given each week to practise, in preparation for an informal quiz to check understanding, also on a Friday.

Overall, moving up to Class 3 should prove to be an exciting new adventure for all of your children!

I shall be holding a short information evening along with Mrs Brown on Wednesday 10th September at 4:30pm (following the trip to the Saints) in Class 3 where I shall give you further details and information about the year ahead. I hope that you will all be able to attend and I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Best wishes, Miss Connell