

Dear parents/carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and we're sure you're glad that the children have returned to school! The children have started the half term on a very positive note, returning to school routines and structures in a calm and focussed manner. We hope within the first two weeks back, we will be in our new classrooms and we are eager to get the children settled in to their new learning environments. In the near future, we hope to invite you in to see the new classrooms as well as this half term's work.

This half-term our topic is 'China' and the children seem keen to find out about the location and traditions of the Chinese culture. We intend on exploring Chinese fables, dragon dances, 'Terracotta Warriors', the 'Chinese Zodiac', landmarks, environment, Chinese food and music. Towards the end of January, the children will be welcoming in the Chinese New Year.

In literacy we will be continuing to develop skills in grammar and handwriting in weekly sessions. Spelling will remain a high priority for Year 3, with weekly differentiated sessions and tests—please continue to support your child with practising their words. Spelling words also aim to expand children's vocabulary, therefore children will be encouraged to use their spelling words appropriately in sentences; another activity which children could be supported with at home. We will be introducing a new extended writing session on a Friday morning in which Year 3 will have opportunities to write a range of text types and apply their spelling, grammar and handwriting skills. The emphasis will be on children taking ownership of their learning and identifying ways in which they could improve their writing.

There will still be a continued focus on children's understanding of texts this half-term as we feel this is crucial in developing reading and comprehension skills. Please support your child with this by regularly reading and discussing texts with your child at home.

In numeracy children will be developing skills in a wide range of mathematical areas including shape, measures, number and data handling. We will be continuing to test children on their times tables weekly and mental maths tests will happen weekly. Opportunities for children to reflect on learning and develop their understanding will also be planned into these sessions.

Things to remember:

- Children are asked to bring their book bag containing their school reading book, reading record and planner every day.
- P.E. for 3NJ is on Wednesday and Friday and for 3DW is on Wednesday and Thursday. Children are asked to bring their kit on a Monday and keep it in school throughout the week so that P.E. lessons can be flexible. All children need indoor and outdoor kit. There have been lots of children without kit recently and this is disrupting lessons so please encourage your child to be independent and prepared for ALL lessons.

We hope the children have another fantastic half-term and continue to enjoy their time at NJS.

The Year 3 team,

Miss Jones

Miss Wood

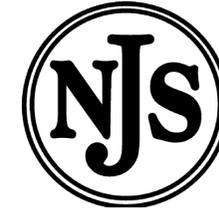
Mrs Doy

Mrs Wood

Key Dates:

Friday 31st January - School closed - staff training.

NJS Home Learning Log



China Year 3

Name: _____

Spring One

Tasks	Choice of Home Learning tasks.	Work completed?	Parent comment.	Teacher comment.
1	Make a map of China, including key landmarks and places.			
2	Research Chinese pottery (Willow Patterns) and produce your own design.			
3	Find and record the different light sources you can find in your house. (Think back to our first Science session.)			
4	Produce a fact file about daily life in China. What is similar to the UK? What is different?			
5	Make a Chinese Dragon—be creative! You could use any materials you want ! (e.g. fabrics, junk, cardboard, food, play dough, Lego, etc)			
6	Find a traditional Chinese tale and retell the story in your own way, e.g. comic strip, storyboard, booklet, playscript, artwork, etc.			
7	Imagine you are going to visit China, find out what route you would take, the transport you would use and the places/landmarks you might see along the way.			

Topic: China

Note to parents

Dear Parents,

At the start of each half term the children will be given a home learning log like this one which they must keep for the duration of that half term. The home learning activities will be linked to the topic that the children are focussing on at that time and the activities will be carefully chosen to develop different skills in relation to a variety of curriculum subjects.

The children will be able to choose the order in which they want to complete the activities. It is hoped that this will encourage the children to organise their time and to plan in advance so they can gather relevant materials to complete the art / design based tasks. There will be more home learning activities than there are number of weeks in that half term. It is hoped that this will allow the children to make independent choices about which tasks they would like to undertake.

If the children bring in a piece of work by **Friday** of each week they will receive a merit to go on the class chart. Children can obtain merits for a number of reasons and they add up at the end of the school year and can be cashed in for prizes.

This year all home learning will be displayed in year group areas to allow the children to feel proud of the quality work that they have produced. We hope that this will create interest and give the children the opportunity to learn from others, as well as further reinforce just how much the children and staff value home learning in Norton Junior School.

As you can see there is space for teacher and parent feedback for each home learning task to allow continued dialogue between home and school, please feel free to comment on the task or the work that your child has produced.

We hope that parents and children find each of their half terms task exciting and stimulating. As a school we fully encourage parental involvement with children's learning so please continue to support, value and encourage them to continue their learning at home.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another enjoyable school year.