

Year 3 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026 Settlers

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to Year 3. We have an exciting term ahead of us, packed with creative learning opportunities to help support the progress of every child. We understand that your child's interest is likely to extend beyond the classroom, therefore, please find below an outline of the learning we hope to be covering during this term in Year 3.

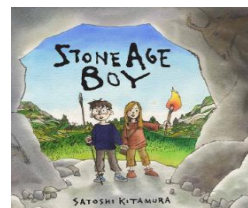
Our curriculum topic this term is, **'Settlers'**.



Class reader

In year 3 as we develop our reading skills, we will focus on a text each term that links with the learning the children are doing at that time. For this first half term, our class reader is **'Stone Age Boy'** written by Satoshi Kitamura.

The book is set in a fictional Viking world and focuses on the experiences of a character who accidentally trips and falls into the Stone Age. The main character encounters adventures on his journey in a strange but fun era. The children will use this book to help them gain a deeper understanding of the Stone Age. As part of writing, the children will use this book to write a diary entry as one of the characters from the story.



Year 3 Mission Statement



Historians

As historians, the children will be using a wide range of resources to answer: Would you prefer to live In the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age? The children will begin to recognise that prehistory was a long time ago and use archaeological evidence to learn about prehistoric houses. The children will use dates to work out the intervals between periods of time and the duration of historical events. The children will explore how bronze transformed prehistoric life and understand the importance of trade during the Iron Age.



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Artists and Design

As artists we will be exploring prehistoric art, recreating the style of cave artists using charcoal and natural pigments. The children will experiment with colour mixing, and creating large-scale artworks, enhancing both artistic skills and historical knowledge.



Scientists

As Scientists, we will be studying Animals including Humans. The children will identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. They also learn how to identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.

Our learning will incorporate discussions, investigations and researching.



Spiritual Thinkers

This term we will be focusing on the topic 'How do Jews remember God's covenant with Abraham and Moses?' and how this links to the Abrahamic religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

In year 3, the children will consider and apply ideas about ways in which diverse communities can live together for the well-being of all. They will discuss and apply how beliefs and values may affect choices. The children will have opportunities to explore and make links between stories and other aspects of the communities they are investigating, responding thoughtfully to beliefs and teachings that arise from them.

Community Values

This half term we will be focussing on Kindness and Gratitude in our assemblies and throughout school life.

PSHE

This half term, the children will be learning about the important connection between mental and physical health. They will explore how factors such as sleep and physical wellbeing can affect feelings, and how emotions can influence actions and decisions. These lessons aim to help pupils develop healthy habits, emotional awareness, and confidence in seeking help when needed.

Musicians

This half term the children will learn to play the Ukulele. Pupils will learn the correct names of the different parts of the instrument and the notation values of the strings. Pupils will be shown how to correctly hold the instrument, the correct playing technique when plucking and strumming the strings. We will also start learning how to play the violin. These sessions will take place on Friday morning each week.

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Mathematicians

In maths, the children will focus on numbers up to 1000. The children will count in ones, tens, hundreds and thousands. They will recognise concrete representations and begin to make links for example 10 hundreds = 1 thousand. The children will identify where the digits go on a place value chart and understand the value of each digit. They will move on to expressing their understanding of the process of comparing and ordering numbers and begin to round numbers to the nearest ten or hundred.

Linguists

In year 3 the children will start to learn a modern foreign language (French). As linguists, the children will look carefully at the speaker and respond confidently with the appropriate gesture and phrase. Begin to recognise how some sounds ('on', 'ou', 'et' and 'oi') are represented in written form. Link actions or pictures to the new language, both in spoken and written form. Imitate the pronunciation of sounds. Take turns to speak and use appropriate intonation.

Health and Fitness

In year 3 the children will develop their skills in football and handball. In football, the children will perform basic skills needed for games with control and accuracy and apply basic principles for attacking and defending – finding space (attacking), challenge a player in possession (defending). In Handball, the children will use a range of skills to keep possession of the ball, keep the ball under control, passing and receiving with increasing accuracy and take up space/positions to make it difficult for your opponents.

PE will take place on Wednesday and Thursday each week.

Computing

This half term, the 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.



Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition:

The Mysterious Bag

This half term, pupils will be taking part in our exciting Star Writer Competition, inspired by The Mysterious Bag. Children will explore a range of intriguing objects found inside a mysterious bag left outside our school playground and use their detective skills to piece together the clues and solve the mystery of how the bag has ended up at our school. They will plan and create their own piece of writing, choosing a genre that best suits their ideas. This competition aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curiosity, while encouraging pupils to develop their writing skills and produce high-quality work. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful ideas our talented young writers come up with and celebrating their achievements at the end of the term.

Safeguarding

At Bankfoot, we encourage every child to tell, tell, tell. We want children to speak out and stay safe. In Year 3, the children are taught this and are regularly reminded to speak to a trusted adult about any of their concerns. We also have a worry box which allows children to express their feelings in a more discreet way, should they feel the need to do so.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions, and our moods. Looking after our mental health is important.

Here are some tips for talking to your child about their Mental Health:

1. Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life
2. Ask open questions: **"How did your day go today?"**
3. Calmly stay with the feelings that arise: It can be our automatic reaction to steer away from difficult emotions.
4. Offer empathy rather than solutions
5. Remember we are all different
6. Look for clues about feelings
7. One way to start a conversation about feelings might be: **"How are you feeling at the moment?"**

Behaviour

We endeavour to be a school where children feel safe and happy. They are encouraged to always behave their very best at school, in the wider community. The children know this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school.

We will revisit our school rules as we start the new term. These will be our class and whole school rules. As we use our creative skills to create sculpture and shape, the children will be reminded about individual liberty and mutual respect when observing and commenting on each other's models.

Be kind

Be ready

Be resilient

Be better

Learn at home

Homework will be set for the children to complete every Friday. It will range from learning using Chromebooks or working in their homework books. The children will be expected to complete their spellings in their spelling books, ready for the test on Wednesday. It is vital that Chromebooks are returned on the following Monday, to ensure they can be charged and ready to use in the lessons.

Attendance and punctuality

At Bankfoot, we believe every school day is important. We want to increase the number of children with 100% attendance and punctuality each half term. Every day counts! Every minute of learning counts!

Finally...

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child. The school/home partnership plays an extremely important role in your child's progress and their learning journey. I am looking forward to meeting you all at the consultation evening.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 3 team.

Dates to remember

School closes

Friday 23 October 2026

School opens

Monday 2 November 2026