

Year 3 Autumn 2026 Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all our families. We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are feeling ready for the new school year. We are very excited to welcome your children to Year 3 and look forward to helping them settle in, as well as getting to know both them and you over the coming weeks.

The Team: Mr Hawkins (Year Team Lead) will be teaching RH3 in Room 19, Mr Roy will be teaching KR3 in Room 20, and Miss Heads will be teaching LH3 in Room 18. We will be supported by our Year 3 Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Ball and Miss Head, as well as Mrs Leavey, our Special Needs Assistant.

As your children move from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2, we understand that many of you may have questions. We hope that this letter will answer most of them. Much of your child's day will remain very similar to Year 2, with only a few changes.

The children will spend their breaktimes and lunchtimes on the Key Stage 2 playgrounds alongside the rest of Key Stage 2. At lunchtime, there is often a timetable of activities that children can choose to take part in, just as they did in Year 2. They will continue to have a morning break, although there is no afternoon break in Key Stage 2.

You may also wish to note that funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals ends when children move into Key Stage 2, except for those who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals. To find out whether you are eligible, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/hampshire>

Due to limited space in the classrooms, we ask that children only bring their reading bags into school each day.

Weekly Routines

P.E days: Tuesday (Indoor P.E)
Friday (Outdoor P.E)

Please bring in suitable kit for all weather (shorts and a t-shirt for indoor PE, tracksuit and sports shoes for outdoor PE) in a named, drawstring bag.

Library day: Thursday

Please remember your borrowed books each week.

Water bottles:

Please make sure your child brings a clearly named water bottle to school each day. Please can we emphasise that these must only contain water.

Fruit snack:

The fruit scheme provided by Hampshire does not continue into KS2 and so please could we request, in line with our healthy school status, that you send in a low packaged fruit or vegetable snack for your child to eat during their morning break time.

Dates for your Diary

24.9.26 Y3 Trip to Marwell Zoo

19.10.26 Market Day sale

18.11.26 Individual Photographs

20.11.26 Individual Photographs 'Mop Up'

26.10.26 Half-Term

27.11.26 INSET Day

10.11.26 & 12.11.26 Parents Evening

24.11.26 CB3 Celebration 9-10:30am

25.11.26 ST3 Celebration 9-10:30am

26.11.26 LM3 Celebration 9-10:30am

04.12.26 Christmas Fayre and Market

18.12.26 Last Day of Term, optional early finish 1.15pm.

Reading in Year 3



During the first term of Year 3, children will continue to take part in guided reading sessions using banded books matched to their reading attainment. These books will be brought home to support regular reading practice and should be able to be read independently. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of reading at home and encourage children to read regularly with an adult to develop their fluency, expression and comprehension skills. All children will be given a reading record to log their home reading. Your child will also bring home a library book to enjoy and share with the family. This book may be more challenging and they may need support with some of the vocabulary.

In addition, children will explore high-quality texts as a whole class, developing skills such as summarising, making inferences and predictions, and using evidence from the text to support their ideas. Our aim is to continue fostering a love of reading in every child.

Don't forget to read at least four times each week and bring your reading log into school every Thursday to be entered into the weekly draw for a chance to win a book from our reading vending machine!

The Rainforest

We are looking forward to the year ahead and teaching all of your fantastic children. We have an exciting journey planned, full of discovery, critical thinking and hands-on learning. Our first project, 'The Rainforest', will take the children on an adventure into the wonders of the Sumatran rainforest. They will learn about the different layers of the rainforest, where rainforests are found around the world, what palm oil is, and the impact that the palm oil industry has on Sumatra and the wider world. To spark the children's curiosity, we have already launched the project with an exciting hook day filled with creative and engaging activities.

To further enhance their learning, we have also arranged a visit to Marwell Zoo on Thursday 24th September. A detailed letter containing further information will be sent out shortly, but please make a note of the date.

Maths

- Number, addition and subtraction
100 and bridging 100
Calculating 3 digit numbers
Securing mental strategies
- Multiplication and division
- Time tables 2,4 and 8 and the relationship between them.

Science

- Longitudinal Study
- Forces- Magnets
- Light and Shadows

PE

- Handball games
- Football
- Creative Dance

RE

- Messages
- Angels

PDL

- Healthy Relationships
- Emotions

English

- Poetry and performing own poems
- Diary entries
- Narrative stories
- Persuasive adverts
- Sustained 'Write on' tasks
- Let's Think in English

Art

- Sketching and painting using pastels and water colours
- Printing
- Looking at the artworks of Henri Rousseau

DT

- Designing a shell structure for a gift box
- Designing and making Christmas decoration

Music

- Music from different traditions (Samba)

Computing

- Using CAD to support their DT project

Geography

- Sumatran Rainforest- the impact of palm oil

Spellings

We are excited to introduce a new spelling programme in Year 3 this autumn called Essential Spelling and Word Knowledge. This well-researched programme helps children develop a deeper understanding of spelling by teaching the patterns, rules and structures within words, rather than simply memorising word lists. It builds on the phonics knowledge developed in Key Stage 1 and supports both reading and writing across the curriculum.

Key features of the programme include:

- Systematic teaching of spelling rules and patterns
- Understanding why words are spelt the way they are
- Developing vocabulary and word knowledge
- Applying spelling skills in meaningful contexts
- Building confidence through a clear and supportive approach

There will no longer be weekly spelling tests in Year 3. Instead, children will complete half-termly spelling assessments, allowing teachers to identify any misconceptions and plan appropriate next steps.

Communication

Communication with your child's class teacher can be made through **Class Dojo**. Dojo is ideal for brief messages and should be your first point of contact if you have any questions or concerns.

Teachers will check and respond to messages during the school day and within normal working hours. For reporting absences, changes to collection arrangements, or any matter requiring a more detailed discussion, please continue to contact the school office by telephone or email.



We hope that you have found this letter informative and would like to thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to working alongside you to ensure that your child has a happy, successful and rewarding year at Berrywood.

Mr Hawkins, Mr Roy, and Miss Heads