



Curriculum Information

Grade 3

ENGLISH

Your guide to what your child will be taught in English lessons in Grade 3 as they move into KS2.

Literacy is still a daily lesson in Year 3, made up of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and listening

Topics the children may cover include:

- Myths and legends
- Adventure and mystery
- Plays and dialogue
- Poems to perform
- Shape poems
- Non-fiction: reports, instructions, information texts

Reading in Grade 3 – your child will:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to read aloud and understand the meaning of new words they meet

- read a range of fiction, poetry, plays and non-fiction texts
- re-tell stories orally
- perform poems and play scripts, showing understanding through intonation and action
- infer characters' feelings through their actions, justifying their inference with evidence
- identify main ideas drawn and summarise these

Children should be allowed to choose a book at school to take home with them to read. You may be given an exercise book to write your comments in when you read with them. Children will also read with their teacher individually and in groups (this is called guided reading).

Try this at home:

- *Keep reading together: even if your child is fluent, you can share stories and talk about themes*
- *Branch out – children develop favourite authors or themes at this age, but it's good to broaden their choices by offering alternatives. Ask at your local library for ideas for new authors to try*
- *Word puzzles can be fun – encourage them to try a simple wordsearch*

Writing in Grade 3 – your child will:

- understand how to spell words with a variety of prefixes and suffixes
- become more confident in joining their handwriting, increasing its legibility and quality
- use a wider range of connectives (when, before, after, while, so, because)
- start using inverted commas to punctuate speech
- create settings, characters and plot in narratives using a range of descriptive language
- use organisational devices such as bullet points and sub-headings
- assess and improve their writing

Try this at home:

- *Play 'hangman' – it's a simple game but it reinforces spelling and letters*
- *Let your child send an email or help them find a penpal – typing a letter to a friend or relative is good spelling and keyboard practice*
- *Make up stories together – gather together some favourite toys and make up an adventure for them (put your child in the story, too)*

MATHS

Want to know what your child will be learning in maths lessons this year? Read on to discover the Grade 3 maths curriculum.

Children are becoming more confident in their use of numbers now, so maths lessons in Grade 3 build on this. There is a daily maths lesson, but also plenty of opportunities for the children to use maths in other areas of the curriculum, too. It's around now that parents sometimes start to struggle with their child's maths homework, as teaching methods have changed over the years, and children are taught addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in a completely different way. Take the lead from your child and ask them to explain how they are taught – showing them your methods can lead to confusion.

Number and Place Value

- Counting in steps of 4, 8, 50 and 100
- Recognising place value of each digit in a three-digit number
- Comparing and ordering numbers to 1000 and writing these numbers in numerals and words

Calculating

- Adding and subtracting with numbers up to three digits using column addition and subtraction
- Knowing multiplication facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times table
- Multiplying two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers

Fractions

- Finding fractions of quantities
- Understanding equivalent fractions
- Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator

Measuring

- Adding and subtracting measurements of length, weight and capacity.
- Working out the perimeter of simple 2D shapes
- Adding and subtracting amounts of money
- Telling and writing the time using the 12-hour and 24-hour clock

Geometry

- Drawing 2D shapes and making 3D shapes
- Recognising right angles and identifying whether angles are greater or smaller than a right angle
- Identifying horizontal and vertical lines and pairs of parallel and perpendicular lines

Statistics

- Interpreting and presenting data using bar charts, pictograms and tables
- Answering one-step and two-step questions about the data presented

Try this at home

- *Play a multiplication game with a pack of cards – each player takes two cards, multiplies them and whoever has the higher number gets a point (remember to use only the number cards)*
- *Help your child to learn their times tables – put up a poster, chant them on the way to school or play a CD in the car*
- *Encourage your child to play with symmetry – make paper aeroplanes with symmetrical folds or paint butterfly pictures (paint one half then fold the paper over)*
- *Talk about the time – look at the clock when they get up, go to school, or watch their favourite TV programme*

SCIENCE

Got a mini Einstein in the family? Here's what they will be learning in Grade 3 to help develop their scientific knowledge.

In Grade 3 science, your child will be encouraged to ask questions about scientific concepts and then carry out experiments to find out the answers. In doing this they will:

- learn what a 'fair test' is.
- take measurements using a range of equipment.
- gather and record data.
- report their findings orally and in writing.

Science topics in Grade 3

Plants

- identifying the functions of parts of plants.
- understanding what plants need to grow.
- investigating transportation of water within plants.
- exploring the life cycle of plants.

Animals, including humans

- understanding that animals need nutrition to survive.
- identifying the function of skeletons and muscles.

Rocks

- comparing and grouping rocks.
- investigating fossils.
- recognising how soil is made.

Light

- understanding that dark is the absence of light.
- investigating light reflection from surfaces.
- looking at how shadows are formed and how they change.

Forces and Magnets

- understanding magnetic attraction and repulsion.
- determining which materials are magnetic.
- understanding that magnets have two poles.

Try this at home

- *Plant three sets of cress seeds and then put one in a cupboard, one on the window sill and one outside. Observe the differences in how they grow.*
- *Wait for a sunny day and stand in a particular spot in the garden. Draw your shadow with chalk. Do this three times throughout the day. What do you notice about how your shadow changes?*
- *Make a list of things around the house. Predict whether you think they are magnetic or not: put a tick if you think they are, and a cross if you think not. Now get a fridge magnet and see what it will stick to. Were your predictions correct?*
- *Go on line and see if you can find any information on rocks and soils or skeletons and muscles. Now you can impress your class with your background knowledge when you get back to school!*