

Christ Church C of E Primary School (Cheltenham) a charity



Academy Status

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Welcome to Year 3

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school after the summer holiday. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning with the children! The adults in Year 3 this term will be: Mrs. Knight teaching on Monday and Tuesday and Ms. Steel teaching on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will be supported by Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Jaynes and Mrs. Phelps at various times throughout the week.

Hello from Mrs. Knight!

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the next few weeks. I had the pleasure of meeting the children in July and they made a great first impression with their friendliness and enthusiasm. When I am not teaching, I am a busy Mum to three boys who like to keep me on my toes! I love to travel, listen to music and read – I also love to shop, perhaps a little too much!

Year 3 information

Children will have their own stationery in school so you will not need to provide a pencil case. Please ensure that your child brings a named water bottle and waterproof coat into school every day. All uniform and other belongings should be **clearly labelled** with your child's name. In Key Stage 2, fruit snacks are not provided, so please ensure that your child has a healthy snack each day to eat at break time.

Learning enquiry

Our first learning enquiry this year will be: "How did the lives of ancient Britons change during the Stone Age?" We will be looking at changes in Britain during this period and learning about late Neolithic hunter-gatherers and early farmers. We will investigate some of the important archaeological discoveries, including Skara Brae. Our science work will focus on rocks, soils and fossils. Please spend some time looking at the history and science knowledge organisers that will be sent home with your child so that they are familiar with each subject's key information. It would be useful to have a copy of each of these somewhere around your house or in the car so that you can regularly discuss the topics and quiz each other! You can find knowledge organisers, the Year 3 long-term overview for 2025-26 and letters to parents/carers on the Year 3 page of the school website - <https://www.christchurchschool-chelt.co.uk/year-3/>

Reading

Reading records and books need to be brought into school **daily** by your child as the children will participate in guided reading sessions, in addition to daily whole class reading sessions. Please comment in their reading diary so we know you have listened to them read the book at least twice at home, then we can change their book. We do not have set days for book changes as we monitor reading records closely and change books when needed. Books will be sent home as soon as possible but we will be assessing the children's reading phases throughout the first couple of weeks, so please bear with us in the meantime. We will give the children a reading book based on their current reading phase in addition to a book of their choice to "read for pleasure". Children can use their login details for Oxford Reading Buddy that they were given in Year 2. The quizzes at the end of the online books are very useful and a great way to practise important comprehension skills. We expect your child to read with you **four** times a week and please record in the diary. This can be a mixture of reading books, library books, online books and bedtime story books! It is important that children continue to read as much as possible at home, irrelevant of their reading ability, to improve their confidence and independence in class.

Homework

This term, your child will receive a full set of spellings for the entire term. Each week's spellings will be clearly labeled so you can easily see which ones need to be practised. Having the whole pack in advance is helpful, as it allows you to revisit previous words or look ahead if you'd like to get a head start. However, it is very important that the weekly spellings are practised daily. Regular, short practise sessions make a big difference in helping children secure these words and use them confidently in their writing. The spelling sheets that are sent home will be collected each Friday. Maths homework will be set on Times Table Rockstars. Your child will use the same login details used in Year 2 and they will be able to access the 4 weekly "sessions" that I will set for them. We have attached the TTRS login details on the inside front cover of the children's reading records. Sometimes, we will send a topic related homework if suitable.

P.E.

During the Autumn term, P.E. will be taught on Mondays and Tuesdays but please ensure your child has a named kit and suitable footwear in school every day. The sessions will be indoor and outdoor, so a hoodie and tracksuit bottoms are good for these colder autumn and winter terms. We will send the P.E. kits home to be washed in the holidays.

Trip

Our first trip in Yr3 will be to the Cheltenham Literature Festival on **Monday 13th October**. We will send a separate letter with more details and payment information for the trip.

Drop-off and pick up times

Year 3's day will begin at 8:40am and finish at 3:20pm. The children must be picked up and dropped off promptly at the door at the top of the stairs in the top playground. Whilst we get to know new faces, please give me a wave at home time when it is your child's turn. Please remember that if a different adult is collecting your child, you must make the school office aware.

Our class page on the school website will be updated regularly with photographs and information. If you wish to contact us, please telephone the school office or email admin@christchurch.dgat.org.uk and Mrs Williamson or Mrs Knox will pass on any messages.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. O Knight and Ms. C Steel

Year 3 Class Teachers