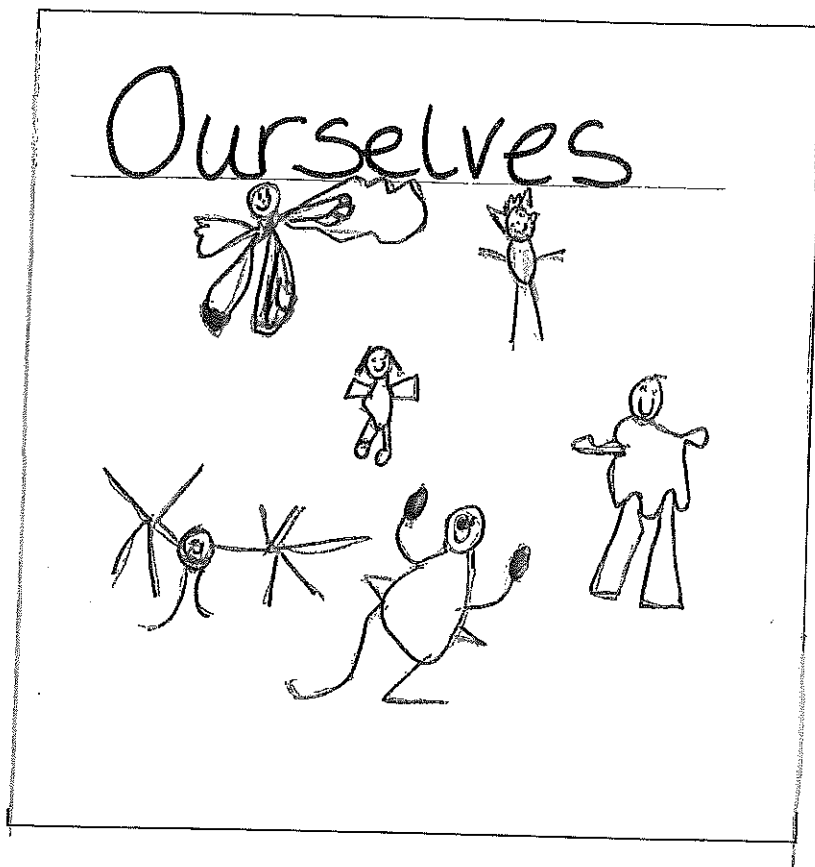


# COCKWOOD SCHOOL

How to help your child.

Autumn Term

Class 3



Cockwood Primary School  
Curriculum Plans for Parents - Class 3  
Autumn term 2012

This term, our 2 topics will be *Ourselves*, in the first half of term, followed by Julia Donaldson in the second half. We will be finding out about ourselves and the things we like to do as well as exploring our feelings and how we are different to others. In the second half of term we will be reading a variety of Julia Donaldson stories and completing a range of related activities; this will culminate in a visit to the theatre to see 'The Snail and the Whale' for which we will have created some art work, alongside a local artist, that will be on display at the theatre!

Literacy

This term children will have a literacy session in the morning which follows the Read Write Inc scheme. This incorporates letters and sounds and handwriting and covers a variety of text types. All children will learn and apply a new sound in this session; some children will follow this with further reading and writing learning based around a Read Write Inc. text and others will follow this with a session focused on blending sounds together.

Children will also engage with news writing on a Monday in addition to smaller group/individual support with name writing, spelling patterns, pencil tracking to improve level of control or word building where appropriate.

We endeavour to read with the children individually once a week, which you will see recorded in their new reading record books, but please be assured that we do read with the children in pairs everyday in our Read Write Inc sessions. Children will also have a guided reading session once a week where they will read with a group of children and an adult from a chosen text in their colour-band, this is followed by key questioning around the text as well as re-visiting any 'tricky' words.

Stories and non-fiction texts will also be embedded in our topic work and also within our maths sessions where appropriate.

**How you can help** - Please read daily with your child at home; this need not be for a long period just judge it depending on your child's need. When writing, please encourage the correct letter formation as this will ensure 'joining up' will be much more fluid later on. Please help your child to learn their letter sounds alongside the letter names. We always bear in mind your child's level of tiredness so please encourage your child as much as possible but if they are exhausted leave it for another afternoon!

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE YOUR CHILD'S BOOK BAND WITHOUT CONSULTING A MEMBER OF THE CLASS 3 TEAM. YOUR CHILD MAY BE READING THE TEXT ACCURATELY BUT WILL ALSO NEED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF FLUENCY, PHRASING AND UNDERSTANDING TO MOVE ON.

## Maths

Maths will be taught as a whole class lesson with each child engaged in activities suited to their age and stage of learning. The maths' areas cover: counting, partitioning and ordering as well as understanding shape, time and data handling.

The children across the year groups will work in groups in rotation either independently or with an adult to extend their maths skills as appropriate and will continue to develop their independent working skills, focusing on the recall of number facts. Some children will continue to work more regularly on maths skills with an adult in time slots such as assembly or story time to give them some extra support.

**How you can help** - As usual make it fun! Play number games, sing number rhymes and measure things around the home. Make it part of everyday life. Talk to your child about the prices in the shop, help them find the right coins and count the change together. Practise telling the time and talk about the days of the week and months. Pose problems for your child to solve and encourage them to work out which operations to use and what equipment they could use to help them. Also consider asking them to record what they do in preparation for moving on.

Remember we do have access to *Espresso at Home* and its fantastic number resources!

## ICT

Laptops will be used regularly. We will be encouraging the children very quickly, to log on and access programmes or websites independently. They will always be encouraged to use sites or activities that will enhance their learning and will learn to use these with adult demonstration. They will also have regular access to the bee-bots, which are programmable toys, to develop their sense of ICT. Alongside this we will endeavour to use the listening equipment, recordable MP3 players and digital camera as part of our curriculum to give the children a broad access to ICT.

**How you can help** - If you have a computer at home, encourage your child to use it as independently as possible. A great site for fun but educational games is [www.ictgames.co.uk](http://www.ictgames.co.uk). Also use Espresso as much as you can.

<https://home.espresso.co.uk>

User name - student10340

Password - cockwood

## Topic (Taught by Mrs Mewse)

For the first half of term this will cover the theme of 'Ourselves'. We will look at our likes and dislikes as well as those of our friends. We will establish ways of working together that work for the children in Class 3 and will begin this with 'Happy Rules'. We will also develop listening skills where children need to find out about their friends and share their findings with the class. Children will be encouraged to practise using different emotions and reflect upon how these emotions feel to themselves and others.

In the second half of term we will explore the stories of Julia Donaldson. We will look at a range of stories, some of the children's favourites and some less known, We will use activities to embed the understanding of these stories, such as puppet and mask making,

role play, painting and writing activities. Many of the stories have a clear rhyming structure so this will also form a theme for our learning.

**How you can help** - Help your child to understand their feelings by explaining situations where different feelings may occur. Discuss with them the things they like and dislike and why, and ask them questions about them. Encourage them to consider people who like different things and why they may like them.

Read and discuss a wide variety of stories, including those by Julia Donaldson, the characters, setting and events. It would also be useful to look at rhyming words and their appearance in stories.

### Art/Design & Technology (Taught by Mrs Watts)

In the first half of term we will be looking at children in drawings, paintings, photographs and artists' self-portraits, and talking about the colours, lines and shapes within these images. The children will use digital cameras to take photographs of each other, and create portraits of themselves using a range of different media, including chalk, charcoal, paint and clay. We will learn about colour mixing and the use of tools to create different effects. In the second half of this term we have been incredibly lucky to secure the help of a local artist who will be working alongside the children to create a large piece of art to be displayed at The Northcott Theatre linked to the production of 'Snail and the Whale'. This will include a range of artistic skills using a range of mediums.

Additionally, on Friday afternoons, the children will be taking part in 'PLAN, DO AND REVIEW' activities; these will involve learning and practising skills including cutting, folding, joining and finishing techniques. The children will plan and make their own models, using the skills they have learnt, and share their finished models with the class, talking about what they enjoyed, which parts were tricky and what they might do differently if they were making it again.

### **How you can help -**

Please look at pictures of people with your child, including photographs of themselves and family members, or you could collect pictures of faces from magazines and create collages with them. When brushing their teeth or having their hair brushed, encourage your child to look carefully at the position and shapes of their eyes, nose, mouth, etc....and have fun with it.... You could ask them "what would you look like if you had square eyes or a round nose, or if they were in a different place on your face?" If you have any Julia Donaldson stories at home, you could tell the story together using the pictures only, to encourage your child to really look at the illustrations.

If you have any items we could use for our junk modelling, please could you bring them into school throughout the term on a Thursday afternoon, or Friday morning. We do have limited storage space, so this would really help us. The items we need are small cardboard boxes (biscuits / mini cereal, etc), cardboard tubes, plastic trays (fruit / microwave dishes / etc), off cuts of material, bubble wrap, bottle lids, buttons and so on. Please could you explain to your child that the items will be for all the children to

choose from, so they may not get to use what they bring in...if there is something they specifically would like to use it would probably be best to bring it in 'named' on Friday morning. We will endeavor to limit the size of the models that come home to you!!!

### **Science (Taught by Mrs Watts)**

The children's learning in science will link closely with our themes of Ourselves and Julia Donaldson stories. The children will use their senses to explore the world around them, and will learn about how humans and other animals move and grow. They will look at how they and other animals change as they grow, and how their needs change too. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to use their natural curiosity to ask questions and find answers through exploring and investigating. We will also consider how to treat each other and other living things with care and sensitivity, and learn the Countryside Code.

#### **How you can help -**

When out and about, encourage your child to use all their senses to explore their surroundings. Could you take your child for a walk around the garden blindfolded? Would you trust them to blind fold you and do the same?! What can you feel with your hands? What can you hear nearby / a long way away...how do you know where the sound is coming from? Maybe you could collect pictures of baby and adult animals, and play animal snap. Encourage your child to think about the safety of themselves and also other animals when out in the countryside.

Please could you find pictures of your child as a baby, toddler and now as a child that you would be happy for them to bring into school in a few weeks time....I will send a note home when we need them, and of course we will take good care of them and return them to you safely after we have looked at them together.

### **PE (taught by Mrs Watts)**

In the first half of term the children will develop a variety of ball skills through individual and group challenges and games. They will work on skills including throwing with accuracy and distance into a target area, and catching a variety of sized balls from a straight and bounced pass. In the second half of term the children will work on elements of gymnastics and dance around the themes of Julia Donaldson stories, including *The Gruffalo*. They will practise combining balance, shape and different ways of moving, and create simple sequences that they can perform to each other. Throughout the term we will be supporting the children in developing their confidence and spacial awareness in a shared space, and helping them to think about keeping themselves and others safe.

#### **How you can help**

Encourage your children to be active outside of school, and to talk with you about the skills they are learning. They might like to show them to you, or even 'teach' you what they have been doing!

Have fun.

### **PSHE (taught by Mrs Watts)**

The children will focus on developing their listening skills, and through circle time become more confident at speaking in a group. We will be thinking about how each of us is special and celebrating our differences. The children will be encouraged to think about the need for simple rules at home and in school, and how each of them can contribute to making our class a happy and productive place to be. In the second half of term we will think about people that help us in our community, and in particular the emergency services. We will talk about being safe at home and out and about. We will learn about feelings, and talk about how to keep calm when we get cross.

#### **How you can help**

Please encourage your child to talk about the things they are good at and the things they find difficult. Help them to recognise that they are special, and that their differences are what make them who they are. Talk with your child about being safe at home and when out walking, and help them to begin to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe by thinking carefully about what they do.

### **RE (Taught by Mrs Mewse)**

This term we will be discussing communities: the communities we belong to and the Christian community.

We will also be exploring the festival of harvest and preparing for our own celebrations. Later in the term we will learn about the meaning of Christmas to Christians and the Christmas story. We will discuss how our families and the wider community of our friends celebrate Christmas.

#### **How you can help -**

Help your children to identify what is important to them and to others. Read stories with morals and hidden meanings and talk about some things in the stories that make people ask questions.

### **Music (Taught by Mrs Mewse)**

Children will be exploring beat and tempo through a theme of Special people. This will cover singing and learning new songs, rhythm and pace in playing instruments and body rhythms.

Children will match sounds to objects as well as building upon their listening skills. We will also learn some Christmas Carols later in the term as well as songs for the Harvest Festival Celebrations.

#### **How you can help -**

Help our child to identify sounds in the environment and within pieces of music.

## **Home learning**

Home learning will go out on a Thursday to be handed in the following Monday. This will be set for all children according to their stage of literacy learning. You will see instructions in the front of the home learning book. Please once again bear in mind your child's 'tiredness' level and although Home Learning is an important part of school life if your child finds it difficult or is too tired please note this on the weekly task. It is normally best if your child places their home learning book on the teacher's chair on a Monday morning.

## **General**

Children should stay on the playground until 8.55 when they will come into either news writing or reading to settle them into the day. They can of course come in to organise their belongings, snack, coat etc, which we encourage them, as soon as possible, to do independently. They should also use the interactive white board chart to tell us what they are having for lunch.

If you have written something in the reading record or contact book that you would like us to action, please ask your child to place it in the blue basket next to the teacher's laptop so that we know you would like us to read it that day. We may not look at your child's book each day so this is important if you would like us to respond promptly.

If you have any concerns please try to catch us at the end of the day, if it is urgent then do talk with us but please bear in mind it is a very busy time in the mornings in preparation for the days lessons. You can also leave a message for any of the Class 3 team, with Mrs Jago or via email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Mrs Mewse