

CURRICULUM LETTER

Year 3 - Spring 1



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Exwick Heights Primary School

Exwick Lane, Exeter, EX4 2FB Telephone Number: 01392 209030

Website: <https://exwickheights.devon.sch.uk> Email: admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers of Exwick Heights Year 3 pupils,
Happy New Year! We have a very busy half term ahead!

In **Writing**, the children will start by writing information texts about a plant (or group of plants) of their choice. Our book is 'The Big Book of Blooms' which was produced in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It is a model text for how to present flower facts in short sections amid bright, bold illustrations. Children will learn how to describe the plants factually using expanded noun phrases and adverbials. They will also learn about the key features of informative writing.



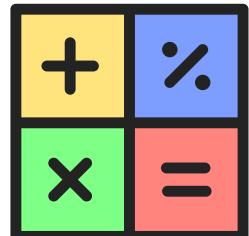
Supporting your child at home: Please encourage your child to practise any new spellings set using 'Doodle Spell'. There will also be English tasks set through 'Doodle English'. Please provide opportunities for your child to practise their handwriting at home; this could be helping to write a shopping list or regularly writing an accurately punctuated sentence with support.



In **Reading** lessons this half term, we will continue to revise phonics sounds and develop our key reading skills such as information retrieval and inference. Lesson themes will support our learning in other subjects. Our new class book will be Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest.

Supporting your child at home: As always, do encourage your child to read a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Year 3 children should read at home for a minimum of 20 minutes a day and, for each book your child reads, they can complete an Accelerated Reader quiz to earn points - eventually becoming a Word Millionaire and more! Regular reading will be rewarded with tickets in the 'Read to Succeed' draw, where they could win a book!

In **Maths**, we will be learning about Multiplication and Division where we will develop mental and written strategies for multiplying and dividing - these include arrays, flexible partitioning, remainders and simple written methods.



Supporting your child at home: Please encourage your child to complete the activities set on 'Doodle Maths'. They are also able to access 'Doodle Tables' to complete independent practice.



In **Science**, we will be studying **Plants**. We will focus on identifying and describing different parts of flowering plants. Throughout the lessons, we will complete experiments including what plants need for life and growth, investigate how water is transported within plants and learn pollination through animals. **Supporting your child at home:** You can help your child by finding out more about this topic at the local park, library or online.

We will be studying the **Shang Dynasty** in **History**; the children will learn about how this ancient Chinese Dynasty began, what life was like, what they believed in and about the different kinds of Emperors. Asking questions about what they have learned will help them, will help them become great historians!



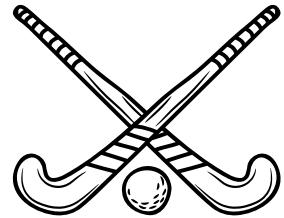
Supporting your child at home: You can help your child by researching the Shang Dynasty or delving deeper into other ancient Chinese dynasties.

REACH THE HEIGHTS



In **Art**, we will be developing our artist skills before creating our own botanical drawing linking back to our science and writing units. They will be developing their sketching, shading, texture and observation skills. **Supporting your child at home:** You can help by discovering how shades affect how something looks and gaining more knowledge on different botanical plants!

For our **outdoor Physical Education** lessons, we will be practising hockey skills and we will also be attending an End Ball Tournament at West Exe Secondary school on 21st January 2026. In **indoor PE** sessions, we will be developing our gymnastics skills. **Supporting your child at home:** Encourage your child to be active daily to help them improve their stamina and physical health! Simply going for a family walk or playing outside is perfect!



Our **PSHE** focus is **Dreams and Goals** where the children will focus on setting personal targets and the strategies to get to their goals. We are aspirational for our children and believe that encouraging them to look at the world through the perspectives of others is an important part of being a great citizen. On the 9th February it is Children's Mental Health Week so we will be exploring different ways to improve our wellbeing.



Supporting your child at home: Enjoy open discussions with your child about their views of the world around them.

In **RE**, our focus is 'How do festivals and worship show what matters to Muslims?' We will learn about Islamic worship, the Mosque, the Five Pillars and a range of different festivals to help us learn how these different things shape a Muslim's life.

Supporting your child at home: Consider talking to your child about beliefs and how they compare to others.



In Computing, we will be creating our own stop-motion animations. Children will have the opportunity to plan their own mini animation, design the characters, setting and storyline before using computers to record their animations!

Supporting your child at home: Please support your child at home by giving consistent reminders about online safety. 'Think you know online safety' is a great place to get helpful tips.



This half term, we will begin learning French! The children will start this exciting new chapter by first learning some simple greetings, numbers and colours. We will enjoy some fun songs and rhymes to help us learn this new skill.

Supporting your child at home: BBC has a great selection of child-friendly French resources including their popular television show Muzzy.

Home Learning: All 'core' home learning will be checked on a Friday, with time scheduled in the day to share and celebrate any 'Curiosity' tasks completed. If you would like to email anything to share in this session, please use the admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk address.

If you have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher directly or email admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk; your query will be passed to them. If you have any concerns or want to bring something to our attention, please do contact the Year Group Lead - Mrs Davis.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Davis
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