

# Year 3 — What We're Learning

*Our theme for the first six weeks: Lights, Camera, Animate!*

This covers the first six weeks of the autumn term (2nd September – 9th October). During this time, Year 3 will be exploring **Lights, Camera, Animate!** — discovering how animation works, and connecting a sequence of still images into one moving story. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Connected**.

## Our CARE Curriculum

Lights, Camera, Animate! is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 3, 'Connected' means connecting individual frames — and individual subjects — into one shared output: a finished stop-motion animation.

## Our School Value: Curious

We'll launch the unit by asking: 'how can a picture that doesn't move... move?' Children will explore a simple flick-book or zoetrope and try to puzzle out the trick before we explain it — tapping into our school value of being Curious, the same curiosity that drove real animation pioneers like Walt Disney and Nick Park to keep experimenting until still pictures came to life.

## Computing and DT this half term

- Learning how a picture can be made to move, frame by frame
- Building a moving mechanism (lazy tongs) to use as a physical prop
- Designing and making a paper puppet with moving joints in Art
- Filming their own stop-motion animation, combining their puppet and prop
- Editing and finishing their film, ready to share with others

*At home, you could try making a simple flip-book together, or look up how old cartoons like early Mickey Mouse films were made.*

## Science this half term

We're investigating light:

- What light sources are, and how light reflects off different materials
- Staying safe around sunlight, and never looking directly at the Sun
- How shadows are formed, and whether a higher light source makes a longer shadow

*At home, you could experiment with a torch and different objects to see how shadows change.*

## Maths this half term

We're building strong number foundations across two areas:

- Weeks 1–3: Place Value within 1,000 — recognising hundreds, tens and ones, using a place value chart, partitioning numbers up to 1,000, and comparing and ordering them
- Weeks 4–6: Addition and Subtraction — adding and subtracting 1s, 10s and 100s, adding and subtracting 2 and 3-digit numbers, and using inverse operations

*At home, you could practise partitioning numbers into hundreds, tens and ones using coins or counters.*

Music this half term: learning to play the ukulele with Mr Dunn (Gateshead Music Service) — playing A minor (Am) and C chords in time to a 4/4 rhythm.

RE this half term: Muslims — how does prayer and fasting help Muslims find harmony? Exploring how Allah is understood to have created a world designed for harmony, and how prayer and fasting help Muslims achieve this.

## Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "How do you think old cartoons were made before computers?"
- Ask: "What is a shadow, and what makes it longer or shorter?"
- Ask: "What's the difference between a cartoon and an animation?"
- Ask: "What questions do you have about how things work?"
- Try together: make a simple flick-book with a stick figure that moves across the page.

## Words you might hear at home

*animation, stop-motion, zoetrope, silhouette, chronology, pioneer, mechanism, reflect*

## A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers friendships, how to treat others, what to do when friendships go wrong, consent, and bullying. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 3. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

## Enrichment

- A whole-day trip to Beamish Museum (8th October) — watching an animation at the old cinema, learning about the history of film, and sharing the children's own finished stop-motion animation
- Careers spotlight: Stage Manager, linking our Science (Light) learning to backstage and theatre careers

## Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

## Keep in touch

This overview covers the first six weeks of the term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

*Thank you for your continued support.*



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