

Dear Families,

Welcome to our Class Update for this week.

Request/Notices:

We are looking for a volunteer to accompany Class 3 on our Harewood Autumn day in the Harewood House grounds on Tuesday (9:30 until the end of the day). I had sent out requests to a few parents who I knew had volunteered before but haven't heard back so I'm assuming people are busy. If you are able to join us please can you let me know via email at m.sturgess@harewood.leeds.sch.uk - thank you in advance!

Christmas card designs have been sent home this evening although Mrs Miller explained that some pupils left them on their desk so these will be sent home on Monday now! We hope you like them and are grateful for any orders which help to raise money for the PTA.

Parents evenings are the first week back after half term. Please be assured that whilst you will only meet with one teacher, Mrs Miller and I will be discussing and preparing our notes together so you will receive input from both teachers and likewise if there is anything that you need to inform both of us we will make sure this is communicated too.

Homework:

This week we sent home a list of 'statutory spellings' which are part of a larger list of words which are linked to pupils' assessment of writing and spelling. The complete list is here:

[SpellingWordList_Y3-4.pdf \(oxfordowl.co.uk\)](#)

These words will be tested in the usual way although we shall return to these words throughout the year and will build up, adding a new list each half term throughout the year, so that all pupils practise half of the complete list in Years 3 and 4. **Please encourage pupils to complete their handwriting/spelling sheet neatly at home and also to keep practising the words throughout the week.** Most pupils are doing this but I noticed a few pupils who have been quickly trying to complete their sheets in the morning of the test in class before they are checked which is meaning they haven't given the work sufficient attention or practice.

Just a reminder that it is also an expectation that pupils will get **a minimum of three parent signatures per week in their reading record** - they get bonus team points for having extra entries! In an ideal world, it would be great if these sessions are interactive and you are able to take some time listening to your child reading and discussing the text (perhaps using the VIPERS prompt in the parent welcome packs) but I appreciate life

is very busy - it is fine just to add a signature to the child's record of their home reading. And remember to keep those subtitles on the tv - it's been proven to improve reading!

Please encourage pupils to keep playing Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) too - it's a fun way to learn the tables and it is tailored to current progress of the child which is ideal too.

Update:

It's been a busy couple of weeks in Class 3 with much going on! Last week we had our history visitor Dr Jed Atkinson which gave the pupils the chance to handle genuine Stone Age artefacts, explore a recreation of a burial site and take part in a (tiny) dig! It was a great afternoon!

[Hands-on History with Dr J Atkinson! \(tapestryjournal.com\)](http://tapestryjournal.com)

We've also been working hard on our Christmas card designs which (hopefully) made their way home tonight! In Science, children have been experimenting with soil permeability using filter paper, funnels and measuring cylinders. In RE pupils have been learning about Diwali, Bandi Chhor Divas and Hanukkah and how goodness overcame evil/light overcame darkness.

In English, we have started our new class novel, Stig of the Dump and the class have been studying a range of authors as part of Black History Month. In Maths we have been really perfecting our skills with written and subtraction, particularly using the column methods, which you'll be pleased to know is the same method you will have learned at school so feel free to practise/test these skills at home! There's been a great, studious atmosphere in class and we are so proud of how the children are working, especially given that it's such a long half term.

We've also been welcoming new members to Class 3, who have fitted in brilliantly since joining - it's no surprise though given what a lovely, welcoming group of children the class are!

That hopefully gives you a flavour of some of the great work that's been happening in class! Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,
Mr Sturgess and Mrs Miller