

Dear parents,

Happy Easter! The Spring Term has been an industrious one and Mrs Miller and I are delighted with how the children have progressed overall - the Year 3s seem to have really adjusted to the demands of the KS2 curriculum this term and it's been great to see them really finding their feet and growing in confidence and independence.

This week has been a very busy one as we've been drawing several topics to a close. We completed our Mountains topic with some brilliant child-produced teaching presentations which included some excellent ICT skills - for most pupils this was the first time they had produced a PPT presentation and the children loved bringing these together with transitions and designs before sharing with the class. We extended our knowledge to include sections on different types of mountains and how they are formed.

We hadn't quite finished our class novel of Charlotte's Web but I had a cunning end-of-term back-up plan for this and the class watched the film version so that we could see the conclusion of the story! It's always fun to see a film adaptation after reading the book and the children could recognise particular lines of dialogue and the parts that were the same or tweaked for the film.

In DT we have been looking at 'shell structures' which is a fancy way of saying 'making boxes'! Children have been learning about nets and how to assemble these as well as trying to visualise how to arrange their designs so that no panels end up upside down. This week we made an Easter-themed box which would be the perfect size to house a creme egg.... I did say that perhaps if they looked with pleading eyes perhaps they might get something to go inside - sorry!

This week we also brought to a close our English National Opera (ENO) composition project which the children have been working on with Mrs Jarvis. The final piece was a brilliant work inspired by frozen, magical castles and more!

In English, Class 3 have truly outdone themselves this half term with their Peru Travel Brochure! Their hard work and dedication over the past three weeks—researching, drafting, and perfecting their final pieces—have been nothing short of impressive. We were incredibly proud of the effort each student put into their work, and we hope all parents had the chance to see their child's fantastic achievements at Parents' Evening.

During the 3 weeks, the children explored Peru's rich history, from the rise of the Inca Empire to the Spanish Conquest (despite Mrs. Miller's amusing mix-up calling it the Spanish Inquisition, daily!). They also delved into the wonders of the Amazon rainforest and discovered countless fascinating facts—who knew Peru boasts over 3,000 varieties of potatoes?

Amazing work, Class 3! You have truly earned your well-deserved two-week break!

Homework:

Keep reading! Reading (and discussing) texts at home is the best way you can support your children's progress at home.

I know Mrs Miller has mentioned 'Reading Eggs' as a tool to motivate reading at home and work on comprehension skills. They are offering a 30-day free trial at the moment which would be perfect for any parents who are interested:

[Learning to Read for Kids | Learn to Read with Phonics | Free Trial – Reading Eggs](#)

We will be having a 'low-stakes quiz' (test) on Times Tables after the holiday. Year 4 have until June to ensure they know all of their tables ahead of the multiplication tables so we will be testing all tables for Year 4 to establish where any final gaps might be - they're doing well with these though! Below are some links to support with this. For Year 3, we will just be checking on 2,5,10,3 and 4 times tables.

[Multiplication Tables Check - Mathsframe](#)

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

[Home - Times Tables Rock Stars](#)

[Times tables games - Learn them all here!](#)

We will also be having a 'low-stakes quiz' (test!) of the statutory spellings we have covered so far this year (Autumn 1 and 2 and Spring 1 and 2). This will be on the second week of term to give some time in class for practice too. It would be helpful to practice these a little at home if possible - be mindful that some pupils find spellings very difficult and frustrating to learn and statutory spelling lists are kind of arbitrary in nature and don't follow clear spelling rules which makes it harder still - they have been chosen (not by us!) because they are words that often children find tricky to spell at this age and so they can be demanding. A little and often is the best way to tackle these - having a little pot with the words in and picking out three a day for instance might be a fun way to build this up without it feeling like a huge task.

Whilst there is a little bit of homework here, we've tried to keep it consciously light because what is more important is that children get to switch off from school life and enjoy some much needed rest, recuperation and precious family time.

We hope you have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you in the summer term. Please be aware that on the first day back (Tuesday 22nd April) we are heading out promptly after registration at 9:00 am to walk to Gateways for an author visit (from Dermot O'Leary!) - no money/consent/packed lunch is required for this visit and pupils can come in PE kit as usual as normal but please be on time or we will have already set off!

Kind regards,

Mr Sturgess and Mrs Miller