

Dear parents,

Notice: Individual photographs are on Monday so please send pupils in school uniform rather than PE kit.

Homework: Pupils should have at least three signatures in their reading diaries each week. Pupils have been given out spellings for their weekly spelling test as usual next week. Please be aware that we are also testing a short list of statutory spellings which were given out at the start of the half term too (they will be stuck in orange books). These spellings can be quite tricky which is why we spread the giant list of them down so they focus on just a few each half term.

Times tables practice: Pupils should know their Times Tables Rockstars logins (they should be stuck in reading records if needed) and we encourage regular practice at home. There are other times tables websites but TTRS should make up a large part of this revision as it is personalised to the progress of the child. Year 3 pupils are currently focusing on the 3 times tables and Year 4 pupils the 6 times tables. 'A little and often' is the best approach here - daily practice of even five or ten minutes will be much more effective than a long stint on a weekend. It's about a drip, drip approach - this is the best way to secure these number facts. Of course, you don't need an app to practice either, chanting them at home, writing them down, testing the tables and working on gaps all work too!

Weekly highlights: There has been a really productive atmosphere in Class 3 these past couple of weeks. We have settled well into routines and the class are working well as a team! In English we finished our amazing animal-themed non-chronological reports, which were a stunning collection of work. Continuing with our non-fiction writing theme this half term, we have begun work on a report about Italy, which is an English piece but linking to Geography (and to some extent History too as we are learning about the Romans).

Last week pupils made some lovely Roman busts with clay - we got creative with our characters and some pupils brought a more modern twist... we even had a couple of mohicans! I shared some photos here: [Roman Bust Clay Work](#)

In Science, the class have been learning all about the water cycle with some great practical experiments involving an observation of the water cycle in a plastic bag (where pupils can observe the evaporation and condensation involved in the cycle) and a longitudinal study of evaporation.

In Maths we have been learning about standard written methods for subtraction and division up to four digits and including exchanges (carrying / borrowing) so if you'd like to practice this skill at home then that would be great!

Today, we had a visit from our MindMate ambassadors to tell us about our new initiative, Disconnect to Reconnect. An email will be sent out from Mrs Watts to let you know all about it. The children have gone home with two "Keep Track of Your Screen Time!" log sheets, one for next week and one for over half term.

Next week is the last week of half term and we look forward to meeting with parents on Tuesday and Wednesday for parents evening.

Many thanks,

Mr Sturgess and Mrs Miller