

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, and a very Happy New Year to you all! The children have returned from their Christmas break refreshed and full of energy, quickly getting back into the swing of school life.

We have had a very busy first two weeks back, with a real highlight being the visit from the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Dan Cohen, on Monday. Sienna from Class 4, our Children's Mayor, proudly showed the Mayor and his entourage around the school, visiting each class in turn. He spoke about his role and answered some of the children's questions. One particularly popular question was whether the Mayor played Roblox – the children were delighted to discover that he does, and that his favourite game is *Adopt Me!* What a wonderful experience for all the children. I'm sure many of you were shown the lovely badges gifted to them by the Mayor when they arrived home.

Further information about a fundraising event for the Lord Mayor's Charity, taking place on 13th February, will be shared soon.

In English, we have begun reading our class novel *Bill's New Frock*. In our first lesson, we explored the idea of stereotypes, which led to a thoughtful and engaging class discussion. In writing, the children have been focusing on the concept of "show, don't tell" – creating interesting sentences without stating the obvious and using a range of sentence openers. You might enjoy spotting different sentence openers together in their reading books at home. Some lovely sentences have been produced already – well done, Class 3!

In maths, we have completed our multiplication and division unit and are now moving on to length and perimeter. We continue to carry out our weekly times tables tests, and it has been fantastic to see many of our Year 4 pupils, and some Year 3 pupils, confidently completing all their times tables. These children are now working towards improving speed and accuracy with a random selection of tables. Regular practice at home is vital, whether through TTRS or simply recalling tables together in the car on the way to school – every little helps.

Towards the end of the summer term, Year 4 pupils will take the statutory Year 4 Times Tables Test, also known as the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This is a mandatory online assessment designed to check fluent recall of times tables up to 12×12 . The test consists of 25 questions, with 6 seconds allowed per question and a short rest between each one.

What the Test Is:

- **Online and timed:** 25 on-screen questions, with 6 seconds per question and a 3-second rest.
- **Scope:** Multiplication tables from 2 to 12, with greater emphasis on the more challenging tables.
- **Purpose:** To ensure fluency in times tables, a key mathematical skill.

In geography, the children have begun their Rivers topic by researching rivers in the UK using Google Maps on the iPads. In ICT, they have started creating posters about river features, applying the computing skills they learned last term.

In science, we started our topic on Healthy Eating, it is great to see how aware the children are of what we need to survive and be healthy. Today we looked at the 5 different food groups; sorting different foods into the correct group. Next week we will be looking at Food Labels – the children can bring a food label in from home if they wish.

Wow, another busy term ahead of us!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mr Sturgess and Mrs Miller