

Dear parents,

Class homework:

This week follows our usual routine of spellings / times table practice and reading. Optional homework is on also on Tapestry. Also a reminder to practice those Statutory Spellings – Autumn 1 & 2 and Spring 1 will be tested the last week of term.

However, today we are launching a whole-school writing competition and so pupils have the opportunity to write a short story and win book vouchers that they can use in our book fair after half term. Here are the details:

- Stories should be handwritten (and neat!)
- Any theme or genre is allowed!
- They must be 500 words or less
- Entries will be judged on Monday 23rd February
- Only one entry per pupil

Please note that the judging is the first day after half term and it will take place in the first lesson so please pack them in bags as soon as they are written so we don't get any upset children who have left their stories at home!

Please encourage neat presentation and accurate spelling but be aware that it is the content and imagination that we are particularly interested in - pupils will be asked to read their stories so they may want to practice this. I'm happy to read the stories to the class for them if they'd prefer though.

If any children need lined paper then please ask them to ask for this and it can be provided. This homework is optional but encouraged. I won't set any homework over half term so this could be a fun, creative writing task to tackle then although pupils can start right away if they prefer.

Diary dates:

You may remember that we had a visit to school from the Leeds Mayor recently, who told us all about his role (and his love of Roblox!). Well, this year we have decided to support the Mayor's 'Just One Day' campaign to raise money for Leeds Mencap.

[Just One Day | Leeds.gov.uk](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/just-one-day)

If you'd like to learn more, please click the link above. The day in question is Friday 13th February which is the last day of term and we will be having a non-uniform day and asking for a £1 donation for pupils taking part. Thank you for your support on this.

Weekly highlights:

This week we almost managed to finish our 'Flotsam' stories in English which we have been writing this half term. This has been a lovely writing project - the book itself has no words at all except for the title so we've been writing the text to accompany the beautiful, detailed illustrations. The main focus in terms of writing skills has been to encourage children to experiment with sentence openers to avoid using the same types of sentences over and over. It's been brilliant seeing pupils put these skills into practice as it makes a tremendous difference to their writing. Even taking a simple sentence like 'I found an old camera' and adding a new opener like 'Unexpectedly,' or 'Buried deep in the sand,' or 'Leaning closer,' - These techniques really bring writing to life and would be good to remember when writing their 500 word story entries!

In Geography we have continued to hone our mapping skills - this week the children were much more confident at finding and labelling European rivers than when we attempted a similar skill using UK rivers the other week - good work Class 3!

In Art we have been studying a different European artist each week and this week we were learning about Salvador Dali and 'surrealism'. Pupils then created their own surreal pieces and we drew a link between this surreal art and some of the surrealist imagery in our class book, 'Flotsam'.

It's been lovely to see the children working so hard on their writing this past few weeks and the enthusiasm for this has been great. It's always a joy when children are asking if they can continue at lunchtime or in the afternoon - I'm looking forward to getting these stories all finalised! So I know that's not a very dramatic highlight but it's the one that's really stood out.

In RE, we had a visit from Rev'd Carolyn last Thursday, as part of our topic - *What kind of world did Jesus want?* She told us about her daily routine and how Sundays are different. It was lovely to hear about all the extra things she has to do. A big thank you to Rev'd Carolyn for taking the time to talk to Class 3.

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Mr Sturgess and Mrs Miller