

Dear Families,

What a fantastic return to school we have had! The sun has been shining, and all the children have come back with a real spring in their step and a super attitude towards their learning.

In English, the children have been getting stuck into *The Butterfly Lion* and are thoroughly enjoying the storyline so far. If your child would like to bring in their own copy, please ensure it is clearly named. We have also been exploring the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, using it as inspiration to create our own monsters. The children have been focusing on using superlatives, powerful verbs, and "show, don't tell" techniques to enhance their writing.

In maths, it has been great to see that some children have clearly practised telling the time over the half-term break. Having access to an analogue clock at home really supports understanding of this tricky concept. As I have reminded the children, telling the time is an essential life skill, so regular practice at home is very important. Please also remember that optional maths homework is available on Tapestry, linked to our current learning, and can really help to consolidate understanding.

In history, we are beginning an exciting new topic on the Anglo-Saxons (or as the children are now calling them - the "Angelo-Saxons"!) The children will explore who the Anglo-Saxons were, why they came to Britain, and what life was like during this period. They will learn about Anglo-Saxon settlements, beliefs, and key figures, as well as how this era has shaped Britain today.

Highlights

The highlight of the past two weeks was definitely our trip to Harewood Estate. Days like this are always even better with good weather, and the children had a fantastic time. They took part in bug hunting and river sampling, identifying insects and frogs using classification keys. There are lots of lovely photos available on Tapestry. Please do take a look - [Tapestry - Harewood Trip](#)

A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Khan and Mrs Ali for volunteering to accompany us. We couldn't have done it without your support, and we hope you enjoyed the day as much as the children did.

This morning we got to attend the dress rehearsal of the upcoming Wizard of Oz production by Class 2. The children were bopping along to the music and fully immersed in the show. Well done, Class 2, a wonderful performance! Check out Tapestry for a photo.

Homework

Children have been given their weekly spellings as well as statutory spellings. Please continue to practise these, along with those from Autumn 1 & 2 and Spring 1 & 2. All will be assessed in the final week of term.

Please ensure children are reading regularly. Reading is a crucial part of learning in Years 3 and 4, as pupils move from learning to read towards reading to learn. At this stage, children develop fluency, broaden their vocabulary, and deepen their understanding of a wide range of texts. Strong reading skills support all areas of the curriculum, enabling pupils to access information, think critically, and build confidence as independent learners. We encourage a love of reading through exposure to high-quality texts and regular opportunities to read both in school and at home.

Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) – Year 4

The Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will take place during the national assessment window from 1st to 12th June. This is a short, online check designed to assess pupils' recall of multiplication facts up to 12×12 . The check will be administered in school in a calm and supportive environment, with children completing it individually using either an iPad or a computer. We will ensure pupils feel confident and well-prepared, and we appreciate your continued support in encouraging regular practice at home in the lead-up to the check.

Wishing you all a lovely bank holiday weekend, let's hope the sun keeps shining!

Best wishes,

Mr Sturgess and Mrs Miller