

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## Year 3 Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We both can't believe how quickly the Autumn term has flown by, here is a brief look at the exciting things we have been up to.



**Maths** - We have been consolidating and refining written methods for all four operations, using number lines to add, takeaway, multiply and divide. We have also looked at the relationships between multiply and divide and add and subtract, using inverses to check our answers. We have identified different amounts of money and solved problems with money, working out change in pounds and pence. This has involved converting pounds to pence and vice versa. More recently we have been understanding fractions, looking at what a fraction is and the associated vocabulary, as well as working out fractions of shapes and amounts. The majority of children in year 3 have passed their first and second maths HKP targets, so a big thank you from us with times tables support from home.

**Literacy** - The children planned and wrote some wonderful Christmas letters to Father Christmas, persuading him that they deserve Christmas presents. These were then sent off to the North Pole. We finished reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and used this for inspiration to write our own stories based upon a robot or 'Iron man'. This included creating characters, looking at the features of a gripping ending, problems and resolutions that make for an action packed story, effective endings and dialogue layout. The children really got into the book and used many of Ted Hughes' ideas to write their own very detailed stories. They based their stories on the amazing robot puppets made at home. The topic was rounded up this week with all children watching the film version of the book entitled, 'The Iron Giant'. We also completed our Stonehenge topic with a final unit on information texts about Stonehenge. The children researched facts and turned their notes into an informative leaflet about the prehistoric monument.

**Science** - We have come to the end of our forces and magnets topic. The children have enjoyed investigating magnets and have become experts at identifying various forces applied and the resulting effect. We have been testing friction using ramps, cars and different surfaces in science. This has led to some interesting investigations with varying results. The children are learning the importance of a fair test and will take this information forward with them into the Spring term. We are now looking forward to our next topic of 'Light'.

**Topic** - What has been a lovely topic has now come to an end, the children have thoroughly researched the early Stone Age right through to the Iron Age. The children are hopefully now aware of the vast amount of time this period covered and the importance of early man in the world. Over the past few weeks we have looked at evidence from the Iron Age and what Stonehenge can tell us about the prehistoric world. The children enjoyed making their clay sculptures of Stonehenge and are experts at discussing the monument. Our Spring term topic will be the 'Awesome Egyptians', which promises to be full of interesting activities and learning.

Science museum trip - A good day was had by all visiting the Science museum a few weeks ago. The children explored the huge space looking at all the interactive displays and exhibits. They particularly enjoyed the 'Feel the Force' workshop, where they witnessed interesting experiments related to our topic of forces. The children were well behaved throughout and a credit to yourselves and the school. A big thank you to all adults who supported the trip.

Christmas party - We had the most wonderful day of dancing, games and a movie afternoon on Monday. The children also made their Christmas Party Hats and gave the Year 4 children a parade before the disco. The children had a great time and it was a lovely way to round off what has been a good first term for everyone. Thank you for sending in snacks and drinks.

Christmas holiday homework and spellings - There are no spellings to learn over the Christmas holidays and no formal homework. However, please do keep up reading where possible and practice towards any HKP targets would be wonderful. We have attached the New Curriculum word list that we are working on in school. The expectation is that by the end of **Year 4** the children should know how to spell all of these words, we have divided them up between Year 3 and 4, see attached page. Any additional practice at home would be much appreciated.



'Thank you's' - We both wanted to express huge thanks to our wonderful TA's; Miss Lubna, Miss Mandy, Miss Laine and Miss Hollie who work tirelessly to deliver and support great opportunities to your children. Also a big thank you to Gina who has been volunteering support in 3H throughout the Autumn term. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Ajwad, we wish him good luck in his new school next term.

We'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to starting an exciting Spring term with your lovely, well rested, children. Thank you for a great first term!

With best wishes

Miss Hallam & Miss Coward



<u>2016 Diary Dates</u>	
4.1.16	INSET day
5.1.16	INSET day
6.1.16	Children back at school
8.1.16	Ice skating trip
14.1.16	British Museum trip

