

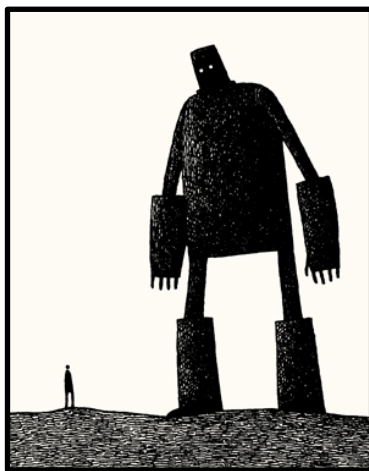
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Year 3 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is a quick look at what we've been up to in the first couple of weeks back at school.

**Maths** - We have spent the past few weeks looking at fractions and shapes. This included identifying what a fraction is using the terms numerator and denominator, how to write a fraction, working out fractions of shapes, cakes and numbers and comparing fractions. We then moved onto some 3D shape and had fun discussing and labelling properties of shape using the language vertices, faces and edges. The children consolidated their 3D shape names and even designed their own building by sketching out a 3D image. Next we will be continuing to refine our mental strategies and written methods for all four operations. We have also been keeping our times table skills up to date by practising daily. Many children have achieved their first HKP target and are well on the way to achieving the second.



**Literacy** - The children have been finding out about information texts; including the features such as the layout, language used and components such as a glossary. Linking into our 'Stone Age to Iron Age' topic the children researched Stonehenge using books, video clips and the internet. They then turned their notes into detailed Stonehenge information leaflets which really are well written. All children used subheadings, labelled pictures, technical vocabulary and even included a glossary! We are now beginning a unit of story writing based upon our new class text 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. This will involve writing character descriptions, story openings, story settings and building to write our own stories based upon 'The Iron Man'.

**Science** - We have started our 'Forces and Magnets' topic with raring enthusiasm. The children are enjoying investigating magnets and their properties, discussing which materials are magnetic using the terms 'attract' and 'repel'. We have also been looking at different types of forces by playing with toys such as pull back cars, spinning tops and foam aeroplanes. The children loved this and were able to see how push, pull and twist forces are used with everyday objects.

**Topic** - The Stone Age has come to an end and we are now moving onto the Bronze Age and Iron Age. We have looked at the features of the Bronze Age and how this period in history was crucial to civilisation. We will be looking at objects made from bronze, how houses changed throughout the Stone Age to Iron Age and placing events in the Bronze Age and Iron Age in chronological order. We will also be making our own hill forts and attempt weaving some Iron Age baskets.





**Spellings** - As you are probably now aware we have started a weekly spelling programme. All children have been given a spelling book with their group colour identified by the colour of their name on the front of the book. This book will be sent home on a Monday so new spellings can be practised, you can use the spelling book to do this in any way you choose. We will teach the spelling patterns and rules on a Monday, as well as testing the children on spellings from the previous week. Please ensure the spelling book is sent into school every Monday so the new spellings and previous week's score can be written in. All children have a set list of words (see information for parents inside spelling book cover) but if they want to try learning words from the group above they may do this also.

**Maths board games** - We are very grateful to have the offer of some voluntary maths games two afternoons a week from Kate (Michael's mum). Kate will be working with small groups of children to give them the opportunity to play a variety of maths games suited to their needs. Kate has provided the current games herself but we want more! If your child has any maths games of any type you no longer need or has 'outgrown' please could we borrow them as the greater variety we have the more fun the children will have. If you are unsure of the suitability of your maths game please speak to either of us, the likelihood is we will want it! Thank you in advance.

**Homework** - A big thank you for the support with homework, spellings, home reading, times tables and handwriting. The Year 3 children have been complimented on their improved presentation and handwriting by many other people so well done for the extra practise at home! Please remember that homework should not become laborious, if your child is struggling or has been working for too long, please stop and do speak to us if you encounter any difficulties.

We have a very exciting few weeks lined up with some Iron Age cooking, a trip to the Science museum, a Stone Age workshop, pedestrian training and Christmas! Please continue to check the school website for our year group page showing photos and videos of the fun we're having.

With best wishes

Miss Hallam & Miss Coward

<u>Diary Dates</u>	
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mufti day
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Science museum
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas pantomime
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas fair
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Stone Age workshop
8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Pedestrian training
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Xmas party
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	School Xmas lunch
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Church service

