

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. We completed a small unit of work on time and will continue with this in the new term, including reading times on 12 and 24 hour clocks. The majority of children in year 3 have passed their first maths HKP target, 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 character puppets made at home and many children have turned their stories into a movie using movie maker in computing. The topic was rounded up today with all children watching the film version of the book entitled, 'The Iron Giant'.

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 'Animals, including Humans'.

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 judgements can be made from this, Iron Age homes and how many features of a round house are still used today in building designs. The children also had a try at weaving, a skill used throughout the Stone Age to Iron Age. 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. It was also great fun looking around 'Launchpad' which was an area full of many interactive exhibits where the children could use trial and error to work out the science behind how things moved, balanced, travelled, stuck to other things or floated. The first experience of taking Year 3 on public transport went really well. A big thank you to all adults who supported the trip.

Stone Age & Iron Age workshop - Last week an expert from 'Portals to the Past' delivered an exciting day of handling artefacts, building Stonehenge, trapping a woolly mammoth, spearing a deer and handling weapons from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children loved this and it really brought the learning we have been covering in our topic to life. Pictures are now on the Year 3 class page of the school website.

60's 'Swim dance' - We have finished a thrilling unit of work on 60's dance where the children have created their own performances in small groups using some classic 60's moves. The dance is well worth a watch and is being uploaded onto the school website today!

Christmas party - We had the most wonderful afternoon of dancing, games and party food on Tuesday. 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 the generous donations of food, drinks and table accessories. We had so much leftover that the children have had some snacks today whilst watching 'The Iron Giant'.



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.

'Thank you's' - We both wanted to express huge thanks to our wonderful TA's, Miss Lubna and Mrs Peare, who work tirelessly to deliver and support great opportunities to your children. Also a big thank you to Jared who has been volunteering support in 3H and other parts of the school for the past month. We wish him good luck in his new school next term. Our thanks go to parent readers and to Kate (Michael's mum) who has been coming into play maths games with Year 3 twice a week.

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>2015 Diary Dates</u> | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6.1.15 | Children back at school |
| 13.1.15 | Ice skating trip |
| 20.1.15 | 'Screen your Story' writing workshop |
| 4.2.15 | National Gallery trip |