

Class 3L Newsletter



November 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last half term we delved into the magical worlds of Alice in Wonderland and King Arthur, including role-playing the court case of the stolen tarts; baking some rather imaginative tarts; writing alibis as to our whereabouts when the tarts were stolen and exploring the life of King Arthur by making Camelot and designing mazes.

We are still part-way through this topic and have some exciting chemistry experiments to carry out before we move onto our next mini-theme of 'Don't chuck your muck in our dustbin!' which is focused on energy and will be part of our whole school 'Sustainable Schools' week in November. I have incorporated a free visit to Drax power station to compliment this area of learning. More details of the day will follow.

The children did themselves and the school proud in their performance at the West Yorkshire Playhouse at the beginning of October. They wrote the lyrics themselves, added a melody and then practised non-stop ready for the show. It really was a fantastic opportunity for the children and great for me to stand back and admire the talented class that I have.

There has been an extremely positive impact of our new Read, Write, Inc. scheme, which was introduced into KS2 in September, on the class' interest and progress in reading. Children seem much more aware of expectations in reading and many parents have reported that their children are more interested and keen to read at home.

Please do not be alarmed that your child's reading diary is full of comments from their reading buddy and not from an adult. All children have a reading buddy in 3L – for some it's a Y6 child, for some it's someone of the same age or someone younger. They meet to read and share a variety of books everyday. This is reading practice, including reading aloud, and the purpose is not only to make better progress, but also to foster a love and enjoyment for sharing books.

All children read to an adult and are taught reading skills at their level on a daily basis as part of the new scheme, but it would simply be impractical to record this on an individual level everyday in

reading diaries. Please continue encouraging your child to keep up the reading at home – they're doing great and their hard work is now showing in their spelling when writing.

Homework

Homework will continue to be given out on a Monday, to be returned on a Friday (unless otherwise stated) and this half term's focus is on writing skills. I have been impressed with the number of children who have responded positively to the responsibility of completing their homework, including those children who come and ask when they are unsure about tasks **before** the day it is due in. There are still a number of children who fail to bring their completed homework back on a Friday and consequently are missing part of Friday Treat Time and limiting the number of behaviour points they can earn for their House. More importantly, by not completing homework they are missing out on vital learning opportunities and creating barriers to good progress. Please reinforce the message that homework is not an option but a necessity.

PE sessions will continue to be daily this half term so please help your child to be organised in making sure their kit, including trainers, is in school every day.

Important dates:

Friday 11 th November	Remembrance Service
Monday 14 th November	Whole School Sustainability Week Visit to Drax Power Station (returning to school at 5pm)
Tuesday 15 th November	3L Activity Afternoon for parents and children
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 13 th December	Christmas Fair and carols around the tree
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Service School closes for Christmas
Monday 3 rd January 2012	School re-opens for pupils

Regards,

Caroline Loring