w.e. 11.01.19

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term! It has been fantastic to see all of the children back in school this week keen and eager to learn. All of them have settled quickly back into school life and are working hard on their new topics. Both their excitement and enthusiasm have been infectious. Wow! Have we really only been back for one week?

Year 3 have gained so much new knowledge and learnt lots of new skills this week. At the beginning of the week the children were enthralled by our Stone Age launch day where we saw some extremely creative costumes! Thank you so much to all parents for your support with our new topic so far. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning a range of new vocabulary such as: flint, Stonehenge, Neolithic and axe. Why not ask your children to explain their new learning? In English, they have started to read their new topic book, 'Stig of the Dump' where someone/something is hiding deep in the chalk pit - who could that be? The children have continued to develop their multiplication and division skills in Maths, where they have been focussed on solving problems. We have introduced our ‘Rocks and Soils’ Science topic this week where the children have had some hands on experience of touching and exploring to discover the properties of different rocks.

Hufflepuff have begun the New Year with a bang! Tuesday began with a wonderful launch day where children and teachers came dressed as Romans. Throughout the day, children tried new foods such as pomegranate, olives and dates; the teachers were extremely proud of all the children who tried new foods and loved them! Some faces were an absolute picture as many different expressions were shown as they encountered new flavours! There was lots of new learning taking place as the children immersed themselves into living during Roman times. Excitingly, children learnt a song in sign language about Romans; they were fabulous - I'm sure they will show you the moves at home. In Maths, children have begun to look at multiplication and what it means to multiply, as well as building word trees for multiplication. Our new text ‘Thieves of Ostia’ has been launched this week, which is Hufflepuff’s new novel for the spring term - its set in Ancient Rome and is full of exciting action.

Year 5 teachers have also been delighted to welcome Ravenclaw pupils back! The focus topic for the week has been, "Me, Myself and I". The week started with a wonderful launch assembly with class teachers and children taking turns to reflect on the experiences that they have had in their lives to shape their personality - this included some very thoughtful, honest and insightful responses so a huge well done to all of Year 5. As well as the PHSE theme which has flowed throughout the week, Ravenclaw have been learning about the features of autobiographies including that of Great British personalities such as Sir Alex Ferguson, Peter Kay and Michael McIntyre. The children have really enjoyed learning about other people's experiences as they look to develop parts of their own autobiography next week. In writing, first person pronouns have been an important element to learn as this will be the basis for autobiographical writing. The children have also been learning about another new concept in grammar: relative clauses – see if they can explain these to you at home. Finally, in Maths, Year 5 children have been focusing on graphs and tables and how these can be interpreted.

During this first week back, the year 6 children have also been fully immersed in their new topic of World War 2. Their enthusiasm is clearly evident as they have developed their understanding of the key figures and countries involved in the war and created a timeline of significant events which they will unpick as the term progresses. In writing, the children have written a description of the Blitz which affected the major cities in the United Kingdom. This leads into their understanding of the purpose of the evacuation of children- I know both children and staff are incredibly excited for the evacuation experience day next Monday. We can’t wait for the children to retell their experiences! I am not sure who is more enthusiastic about this – the staff or pupils! In Maths, the children have looked at BIDMAS and how the order of operations can affect the way a problem is solved. They have picked this new learning up really well so why not ask them to explain exactly what BIDMAS is to you at home?

As you can see the children have immediately settled back to hard work as they start the new term. Times table and spellings remain a focus for our home learning so please ensure that these are practised with your children alongside their reading.

An exciting term lies ahead and we all look forward to some fantastic learning experiences. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs Carrigan