



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Year 3 Newsletter: Spring Term, Week 7

What have we explored this week?

It has been lovely to return to school after a week's refresh. The children have thrown themselves into their learning and enjoyed their lessons.

In Maths, we have been learning how to compare and order non-unit fractions, using the terminology of numerators and denominators. Pupils in Ms Foster's group have been looking at using scales and measuring using grams and kilograms.

In English, we have begun our new unit of persuasive writing. It began with our 'hook', which was a (fictitious) letter from Mrs Wyatt, explaining that the Year 3 Easter Holiday would be cut short to 2 days! After the fury and anguish had subsided, pupils wrote a letter back to her, begging her to reconsider. Thankfully, their letters were well received - and effective - and the usual Easter holiday restored! We have begun learning our new model text, 'Dazzling Demon Dentures'.

We have been blown away by the effort and enthusiasm the pupils have shown in their 'Castle Creations' over the week's break! We look forward to discussing them and exploring these models over the next couple of weeks.

3J thoroughly enjoyed their *Extended Art* lesson this week, where they used clay to create Ancient Egyptian sarcophagi. 3PW are looking forward to doing the same next week.

3PW were fortunate to enjoy another Cookery lesson this week. The recipe is attached should you wish to make more at home!

Buddy-Time is a part of our curriculum where your children truly shine. The kindness and compassion that they show the younger children in Nursery is truly heart-warming. They make us proud!



Things to Remember

- For this weekend's **English homework**, the children have been asked to begin learning the first part of our new model text. Furthermore, some of the children have been asked to continue working in the *English Reading CGP* book (orange and white). They have been asked to complete the **first question set**, based on the text (Orpheus and Euridice) which can be found on pages 22-23. They should answer **question set 1 on pages 24-25**. Other children have been given an alternative to ensure that all the children have a homework that is tailored to suit them.
- There will be a Book Look on Monday 3rd March 8am to 8:45am. We look forward to welcoming you into our classroom and sharing our work with you.
- On **Tuesday, 4 March at 08:30am**, the children in Year 3PW will be speaking about Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday at our whole school assembly. You are all warmly invited to attend. The assembly will conclude at 09:00am. **Please help your children learn their lines for this!**
- You are warmly invited to join us on **Wednesday, 5 March at 8:30am-9am** for a meeting to discuss our upcoming **residential** (7-9 May). We will share with you details about the location, estimated cost and timings of the trip.
- Our **Spring Bulb Competition** has launched! Children are encouraged to grow a bulb (or 2) at home and bring them into school on Wednesday, 12 March when the first round of judging will take place. There are plenty of house-points and 'Green Thumb' certificates to be won - happy growing and good luck!
- The children have brought home scripts for the upcoming *Shakespeare Festival*. We have been looking at the text and practising during Drama lessons. Each child has been given lines to be learned off by heart over the coming weeks for their homework. Please support the children in learning their lines in response to the cue line before it.

We are practising:

- Speaking with a "clear voice" (not mumbled - slow is better)
- Speaking out - finding their "big voice"
- Saying their lines with an "acting voice" - lots of expression to keep the attention of the audience. So aim for a "CLEAR, BIG, ACTING VOICE"!

The performance to parents is on Thursday 13th March at 9am; you will be sent a letter with information on how to reserve your place in the next coming weeks.

- Year 3 PTIs will be held on **Tuesday 18th March**. Please follow this link to book your slot: <https://stjamesjunior.schoolcloud.co.uk/>
- Please note that **Games** on Tuesdays (unless we inform you otherwise) is now starting a little later, which means that if you wish to pick-up your child directly from Kings House at the conclusion of the lesson, please do so **at 3pm**.

- Year 3 have re-started **swimming lessons this half term**, so please ensure they bring in swimming kit on Thursdays until the Easter holidays. If you would like to collect your child from the pool at **3pm**, please let us know at office@stjamesprep.co.uk
- Although the weather is a little warmer of late, we are still in the middle of a British winter and some pupils do not have a raincoat in school. Please ensure that your children have a rainproof coat in school each day.
- Year 3 are progressing well in **Sanskrit**. At present, for any homework set they are asked to continue systematically with the exercises in their text-books. These exercises allow them to practise what they have been learning in class. They should not spend more than 15 minutes on homework. Parents do not need to help at all. If pupils are finding it difficult, they should have a go and then put it away. The Sanskrit teacher will help the next day. The most important thing is for them to enjoy what they are doing, and to bring their book back to school!
- We have reminded the children that Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) forms part of their weekly homework schedule on a Tuesday and a Thursday. Ms Foster has stipulated that **TTRS must be played in Garage Mode only** for 2 x 5-10 minute sessions. If you have any questions about our online platforms, please do get in touch via the school-office. Login details for this platform and others have been stuck in their spelling books.
- Please ensure you are listening to your child **read aloud** as much as possible - ideally on a daily basis, filling in the yellow reading record. *Oxford Reading Buddy* login details have also been stuck in their spelling books.