



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Year 3 Newsletter: Spring Term, Week 11

What have we explored this week?

Our class trip to the *Battersea Peace Pagoda* was a most memorable event. The children learnt about the building's significance, they wrote *Peace Poems*, drew their favourite features of the temple and enjoyed a short enactment of the life of Buddha which was performed by the staff!



We were enthralled by a performance this week of *Mary Poppins*. It was a glorious show and showcased the talents of some children in Years 4, 5 and 6, as well as pupils in our Senior Girls' School.

Tuesday's Games session was a final warm-up for our House Rugby, which takes place next week at Kings House. You are very welcome to come and watch. Timings for the event are 1:30-3pm.

In Maths, we have worked on using scales to measure mass, capacity and volume as well as add and subtract measurements when necessary. Ms Foster's group have continued their fractions topic by looking at non-unit fractions and how they can be represented in different ways.

In Science, we have observed our practical experiments, documenting the growth of seed germination in the classroom and using scientific language and diagrams to describe any changes.

Things to Remember

- For this weekend's **English homework**, the children have been asked to all log-in to Oxford Reading Buddy and spend 20-25 minutes on the platform, concentrating on referring back to the text to find the answer. We have also asked the children to learn verse 2 (3J only), verse 3(3PW only) and verse 4 (both classes) of the Wordsworth poem in their folders, in preparation for Tuesday's service.
- We are looking forward to our Easter Service on Tuesday 1st April. Parents can reserve a space here: <https://forms.office.com/e/e6RMkx32mu>. There will be light Easter refreshments available from 8.15am in the Courtyard ahead of the main event at St Mary's West Kensington, Hammersmith Rd, London W14 0QL, starting at 9.15am. This will conclude by 10.15am.
- The Spring Term ends on Wednesday 2nd April at 11:30am.
- The Senior Girls' School has asked the Nursery and Prep children to join forces in donating soup for our local charity, *Under One Sky* (UOS). Boxes of 'Cup a Soup' or similar (but not fresh, already-made soup) are being collected from now until the start of the Easter holiday. The seniors have a plan to use the boxes in the lead up to the school's 50th anniversary - and then they will make their way to those less fortunate than us - those living on the streets of the city we all call home. Thank you for your kind and generous support.
- The pupils have been given a kit list and medical consent form to take home. Please may the medical form be completed, signed and returned to us as **before the Easter holidays**, so that we can compile the information and forward on any necessary information to New Barn in good time.
- Please ensure that your child has a rainproof coat in school each day, as well as a reusable water-bottle.
- 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!

- Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) forms part of their weekly homework schedule on a Tuesday and a Thursday. **TTRS should 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 listen to your child **read aloud** as much as possible - ideally on a daily basis - and fill in the yellow reading record. *Oxford Reading Buddy* login details are stuck in their spelling books.
- **Please find below instructions for Easter holiday homework:**

The following activities are recommended for Maths:

- Times Tables Rock Stars - Many children are doing an outstanding job of learning and practising their times tables and division facts. Please continue to play in Garage mode with an aim of getting the times tables to green! Children are welcome to play in other modes too, but please keep the key focus on Garage mode.
- National Oak Academy - If there are any maths topics that you would like to explore or revise, then please use the lessons available on this site: <https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/key-stages/ks2/subjects>
- Power Maths Books- These are workbooks which link with our curriculum and teaching style. You can purchase 3A to consolidate previously learnt topics. However, families that would like additional work are welcome to work through 3B or 3C in addition to 3A. Be aware that some topics in 3B and 3C are yet to be formally taught in class. [Power Maths Pupil Practice Book 3A | Shop | White Rose Education](#)
- If you fancy a challenge, then have a go at DecemBAR! A set of challenges designed to encourage problem solving using drawings of bars to represent mathematics. The questions get progressively more challenging. <https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources/decembar>
- Nrich is a fantastic site for reasoning and problem-solving challenges. <https://nrich.maths.org/parents/primary>

The following activities are recommended for English:

- In the final week of term, we collect all reading books in for an inventory, but your child will never be short of a book to read because this wonderful resource is always available for you:
Please log in to *Oxford Reading Buddy* with the sign-in card which has been stuck into the back of your child's spelling book. There are so many books available, and your child can choose a buddy and show you how to click on the prompts and questions as they read the book. *Reading Buddy* is a good model of how to support and encourage children's comprehension skills as they read. For more detailed information, go to this address and choose

Parent Support: <https://support.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/> or look at the introductory video found here: <https://www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk>

Top Tips for enjoying books during the Holidays

Book Sharing

Children learn so much from sharing books with adults. Not only are they **learning vital skills** for later reading and writing, but sharing books also helps with talking, listening, and communication skills, as well as encouraging imagination, curiosity, and arousing emotions.

Read to your child

Your child will learn a lot about how language works from speaking and listening. However, the type of language we use in writing is often different from that in speech. Reading regularly to your child, especially books that they cannot yet read on their own, is a great way of improving their vocabulary and their understanding of language.

Talk about books, stories, words, and pictures

Talking about books is a useful habit to get into. Talk about the characters and what happens in a story, or what specific bit of information was most useful, and ask your child for their opinions too. Let them tell you if (and why) they don't like a book. Part of growing as a reader is learning that it's okay *not* to like books sometimes!

Asking your child open questions can help them to think about what they're reading. Try to ask questions that begin with 'how' and 'why'. See if your child can go back to the text and pictures to tell you how they know the answer. Talking about what is happening in a picture, what the characters might be thinking, or what might happen next all help to develop reading skills too.

- When your child reads an online book, please note down the name of the book in their reading log as normal. This also applies to any Quizzes completed.

We wish you an enjoyable holiday!