



Stoke Climsland School

Dear year 4 parents and guardians,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and have had a happy start to the New Year. I, for one, am excited to be back and re-focus after a very busy Christmas period.

Our topic for this term, is Raging Rivers and Ancient Egypt. I know those two titles might seem a little mixed, but we are going to do some river work, look closely at the Nile and at the ancient civilization that sprung up there. We have some amazing lessons and activities coming up, as well as looking into some of our own local history as we look at the importance of rivers for the Tamar valley through the years.

Our class assembly will be on Friday the 9th of March at 9.15am. It will be a similar to last time, with plenty of opportunities for the children to show you some of their work and for you to have a cup of tea afterwards, so please come along if you can.

PE will be on Thursdays and Fridays, so children will need appropriate kit and trainers for either indoor or outdoor (if the weather is kind) activities. I would also ask that children have a coat with them most days to ensure that they can at least get some fresh air, whether it is cold and showery or just cold.

The children still have their maths targets and are doing marvellously with them: the speed of their times tables is coming along very well. Secondly, they will have '*mymaths*' work on the computer which will now be set every Friday, each piece being 'due' at the end of term. The reading at home challenge/reward system seems to be working so we are going to keep that going. Just to remind you, we expect the children to read at least 3 times a week to an adult or sibling. This can be a simple 5 minutes listening to them and a scribble in their reading record or asking them questions about what they have read by themselves, with a note in the reading record. We will check the reading records on a Friday to see who has been reading the most and there are no punishments for not reading, but a simple reward for those who do!

Finally, the 'big homework' for this term is to learn a poem. This doesn't have to be from heart if they don't want to, but the expectation is that, by year 4 they can '*...prepare poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action.*' So, I would suggest that learning a poem at home is the best way to do this. The children will perform these on a poem recital day, after half term, so they have 5 full weeks to learn and embellish their poem. If you are stuck for ideas, I have shared a few of my favourites with the children this afternoon (no, I'm afraid I didn't learn them all by heart!) and the website www.familyfriendpoems.com has a great children's section. As I have told the children, they may need to read a few to get to one they like, but that all counts for their reading record! So it is all good! Performing in front of people is nerve racking, so if you like, the children could always perform the poem at home and you could film them and then send in the footage for us to watch.

I hope that this all makes sense and if you need any extra help with the poems or anything else, you have but to ask. Thank you for your continued support.

Tom Lumby