

Year 3 Newsletter December 2023

It has been a very busy first term in Year 3!

It has been great to see the children really bed into life at Horsell Junior School in the last two months. The children have continued to work hard and make good progress. We have written persuasive holiday brochures about the Stone Age settlement of Skara Brae and also written an exciting adventure narrative inspired by the children's picture book, 'The Secret of Black Rock'.

In Maths, the children have developed their understanding of multiplication and division. Next term, we will begin to use written methods to multiply and divide two-digit numbers. Their tables knowledge is vital for this and we are now testing them weekly to help them climb their Times Table Mountain Challenge. Please continue to help your children practise their tables at home, it really does make a big difference.

Thank you to all of you that came to watch our Nativity performance at the church on Tuesday and we hope you are as proud of the children as we are! We can't wait to see lots of you at the church for our final Nativity performance on Thursday evening. Thank you for all your help and support this term at home and at school.

Finally, Mrs Nash is going on maternity leave after the new year and her last day with us will be the 5th January. Mrs Miller will be replacing her as the teacher of Elm class after returning from her maternity leave last year and has worked at the school since 2016. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Miller into the year 3 team in January. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Nash the very best for her exciting new adventure.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year. We look forward to welcoming your children back in 2024.

Miss Withers and the year 3 team.

Homework

All the children are now completing their weekly homework. Please remember that our expectations are:

- CGP Maths book- 1 workout per week
- Times Table Rockstars- 10 minutes practice per week
- Spelling practice – Weekly spelling list in their HSO
- SPAG.com- 1 set task per week
- Reading- 5/7 days to be recorded in their HSO

Each task should last at least 10 minutes.

We also ask that you sign your child's HSO each week.

If you have any queries about homework, please email your class teacher.

Spring assessments

In March, we will be taking part in assessments for reading, SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and maths using NTS formal assessments. Teachers will also be assessing writing using the independent writing activities which the children have already completed over the previous half term. As a school we use this information, along with in-class teacher judgements, to map out our future planning, intervention groups and highlight any gaps in knowledge which may need to be taught again.

Teachers and senior leadership (which includes Mr Stevenson, our Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for inclusion and SEND) meet to discuss all children within our termly 'Pupil Progress Meetings'.

We will let you know how your child has performed through our parents' evening session, and also through our 'Snapshot reports' which will be sent directly to you as parents on 28th March 2024.

Book bands will also change if appropriate, based on these assessments.

Communication.

If you would like to contact your child's class teacher, please e-mail:

Oak - Miss Withers l.withers@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk

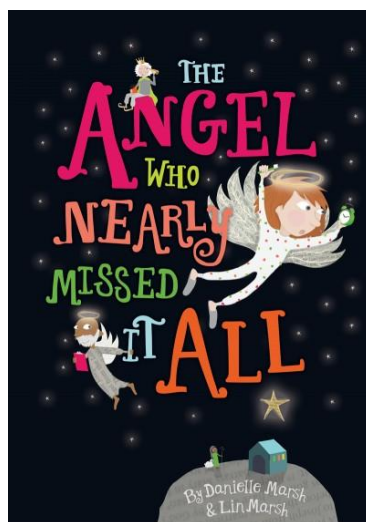
Ash - Mrs Abbott e.abbott@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk

Elm - Mrs Nash c.nash@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk until January 5th 2024

Elm - Mrs Miller s.miller@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk after January 5th 2024

Year 3 Nativity

We have been busy practicing our Nativity performance of 'The Angel who nearly missed it all'. Thank you to all of the parents that have supported the children in learning their lines and for their fantastic costumes. We have had the privilege this year of performing at St Mary the Virgin's church to the rest of the school and to parents. The children did an amazing job and we are so proud of the bravery and collaboration they have shown this term.



School Trip – RHS Garden Wisley

On Wednesday 13th March 2024, Year 3 will be visiting RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey, as part of our plants topic in Science.

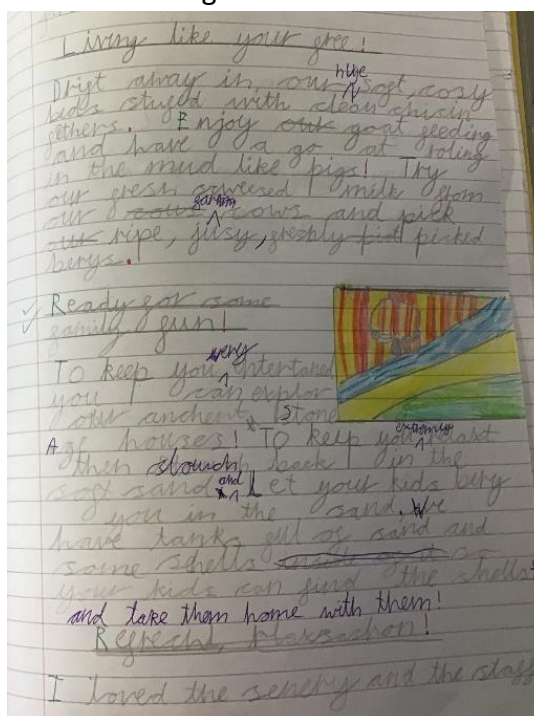
If you would like to help us on this day, please contact your class teacher.



WOW Work!

Every year group newsletter this year will include a piece of writing published from a child in our year group. It is a great way to showcase what we have been doing in school but also allow the children to see that their writing can have an audience.

This half term's work has been written by **Ava in Elm**, who has written a fantastic persuasive holiday brochure about visiting Skara Brae, linked to our Stone Age to Iron Age learning.



Spring 1 skills

Ash- PE with Complete Coaching

Elm- DT with Mrs Rowley and swimming with Mrs Tapley

Oak- PE with Mr Coles

Year 3 learning

This half term the children have been busy working on a range of topics.

RE: Our big question in R.E this half term has been 'How can artists help us to understand what Christians believe and do?'. We have looked at lots of pieces of art across the world that represent Christian beliefs and focused on the symbol of the cross. We made our own piece of artwork at the end of our unit, inspired by the Nativity story. At the beginning of the term, we were also lucky to be visited by Prayer Space, who delivered short workshops to help us to spend time reflecting, moving on from worries, thinking positively about the future and saying thank you.

Geography: We have been learning about our local area and how the land is used. We did some fieldwork of our local environment and we used maps and atlases to compare our local area to that of New Delhi in India.

DT: We spent a day focusing on our textiles topic and made our own cushions. We learnt about different types of stitching, how to attach fabrics together using applique and we planned our designs before assembling them. The sewing definitely tested some of our perseverance skills, but they turned out great and it was so worth it to see our final results!

French: We have been practising our French skills this term by learning how to greet one another, say our names and discuss how we are feeling. We then learnt, during French day, how to say lots of colours and shapes in French. We played some games to test our knowledge and made animal art out of coloured shapes!

Computing: This term, we have been using an app on the iPads called 'imotion' to create our own stop frame animations. We learnt how to create a short animation by taking a series of pictures and moving an object slightly each time to create the illusion of a moving picture once collated together.

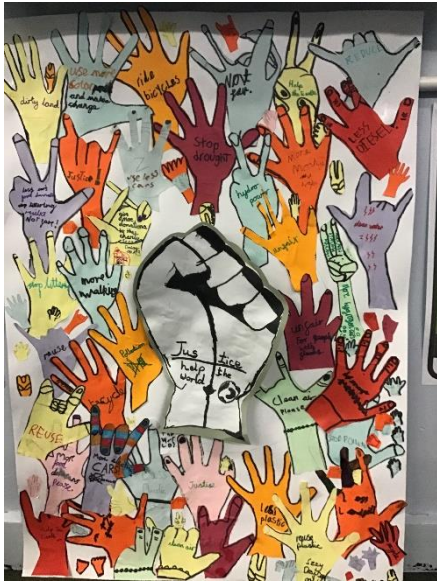
PSHE and Climate Justice: In PSHE, we have focused this term on relationships, families and anti-bullying. At the beginning of the term, we also took part in a Climate Justice project and produced collaborative class art.

A very busy term for us, so we hope that you and all of the children have a restful Christmas break and a very happy new year!



Climate Justice artwork:

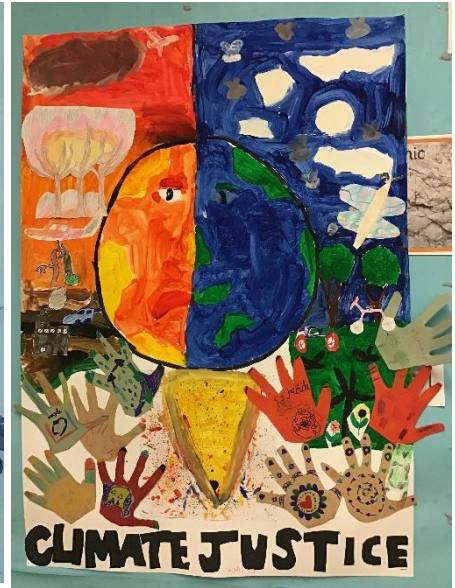
Oak class



Ash class



Elm class



Diary Dates

January	Inset day: Tuesday 2 nd January 2024 Back to school: Wednesday 3 rd January 2024 PTA Good as new sale: Saturday 27 th January 2024
February	Safer internet week: Monday 5 th – Friday 9 th February 2024 Children's mental health week: Monday 5 th – Friday 9 th February 2024 Finish for half term: Friday 9 th February 2024 Inset day: Monday 19 th February 2024 Back to school: Tuesday 20 th February 2024