



Stoneraise School

# Class Elm Newsletter

## Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Half Term

Dear Parents,  
Happy New Year to you all, thank you for your warm wishes, cards and gifts. We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year and are ready and raring to go. We have a fun filled term ahead with lots of exciting things to look forward to.

This half term our topic will be sculptures and we will be asking the question

### 'What is a sculpture?'

We will think about the environment around us and how art can improve an area. The children will research well – Known sculptors and look closely at the variety of different styles of sculpture. They will then of course go on to make their very own sculptures!

#### English

Our main text this half term is *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. *The Iron Man* tells the story of a gigantic metal robot who appears out of nowhere, crashing onto the beach and shattering into many parts. He is discovered by Hogarth, a young boy. The Iron Man proceeds to devour farm machinery, until the farmers rise up against him. The children will be focussing on descriptive language, looking at settings and character descriptions. They will continue to develop their sentence structure.



#### Mathematics

We'll begin the new year by learning to multiply two- digit and three-digit numbers as well as recognising and describing 3D shapes. We'll also be revisiting fractions,

learning to add and subtract them and finding fractions of amounts. We will continue to practise our times tables.

#### Science

The children will learn about the states of matter. They will compare and group materials, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. They will observe that some materials change state when heated or cooled, and they will identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

#### Homework/Reading

Each week the children will be set challenges on Mathletics to consolidate learning in class, this should rarely take the children more than 20 minutes to complete. They will occasionally receive a spelling homework sheet to consolidate learning in class.

We are continuing with our whole-school reading programme called, '**Accelerated Reader**'. The children will be able to choose texts that have been banded according to their reading ability. Once they have read a text they can then complete an online quiz which will enable them to accumulate points and win prizes! **In lower KS2 children are expected to read at least three times a week with an adult at home. Please comment in their reading records when you share a book with your child.**

In year 3/4, children have the option of completing a homework project which is linked to our topic each half term. This term any projects should be about Sculpture. Projects are a great way in which to encourage independent learning and research skills. Children who participate have the choice of how to present their learning it could be a Power-point, information leaflet, artwork etc..

#### Dates for the diary

18<sup>th</sup> January – Class Elm Assembly

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to come and see one of us.

Wendy Pratt and Linzi Jones