



Stoneraise School

# Class Oak Newsletter Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Half Term

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a fantastic Christmas holiday and enjoyed some quality family time.

We have had a brilliant year so far and the children were particularly brilliant during last half term when we explored our toys topic. I don't know if you saw our school Twitter feed, but Anthony Horowitz (the author of Alex Rider: Stormbreaker, Foyle's War and the latest Bond novels) sent a message to the children in our class.



Our topic this half term is all about:

## What was Carlisle like in the past?

This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore what life might have been like for their ancestors who once (possibly) lived in Carlisle. We will re-cap what the children remember about the Roman's influence on the locality then also think about the Border Reivers. Linking to geography, we will think about why early settlers moved to Carlisle and how the city has grown and developed through its history. We will be using Carlisle Castle as a main focus for the topic as there has been at least a fort on the site since the Romans invaded (the first fort is thought to have been built c.100AD).



### English

One of our English texts this half term will be 'Wee Archie and the Ballad of Kinmont Willie'. This is a retelling of a ballad told by Sir Walter Scott about the Border Reivers. We will also use a variety of non-fiction texts to develop our historical knowledge of Carlisle. This characters is said to have escaped from the Castle in 1596.



### Maths

Our mathematics will continue to apply our calculation methods in a variety of contexts. We will explore area, perimeter and volume. We will also explore angles (measuring and finding missing angles). Finally, we will explore position, direction and translation.

### Science

During science we will be exploring dinosaurs. During this topic the children will have a chance to study, research and present information, based on their own questions about dinosaurs. They are often fascinated by the period that dinosaurs lived and there are many programmes and films made that will have provoked more curiosity, such as the 'Ice Age' series and the 'Land Before Time' series. The entire topic is focused on developing children's scientific enquiry skills

### Homework Project

The homework projects last half term were again outstanding. There aren't many schools in the country that could boast such terrific engagement in topics – well done to all parents and children!

The children's homework projects this half term need to be linked to Carlisle's history. The children could:

- Research your family history and how your family came to settle in Carlisle;
- Find out about a particular group of invaders or settlers in Carlisle (Border Reivers, Romans etc.);
- Explore out about how Carlisle City Centre has changed through history;
- Choose a historic building in Carlisle and share what they've found out (Citadel, Carlisle Castle, Dixon's Chimney etc.).

Please contact me if you have any questions. You can either contact me via the school office or my email address is [jwebb@stoneraise.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:jwebb@stoneraise.cumbria.sch.uk) James Webb