

Dear Mums and Dads,

Happy New Year! I hope you all feel well rested after the holidays and enjoyed some great family time together.

Well firstly – wow!! Thank you so much for all of the Christmas cards and pressies that I was showered with at the end of term! It was so kind of you and I had great fun unwrapping them all on Christmas day, not to mention eating, drinking, using, watering and wearing them over the holidays too!

I just wanted to tell you about a couple of particularly exciting experiences that we all shared in Class 3 during the autumn term. Hopefully the children have already told you about our Viking day but did you spot us in The Gazette? I have attached your very own colour copy of 'Vikings Raid Years Three and Thor at Uley' to share with the family, stick on the fridge or perhaps frame and place on the mantelpiece! We have also been in contact with our partner school in France – just before Christmas the children were excited to receive a parcel from Le Sap – I'll let them tell you what was inside! We also experienced our very first 'Skype' with the French class and it was amazing! The Uley children introduced themselves in turn and then sang a song from the Christmas production. Here is a little pic of the grand event...next time we're hoping to be able to use the big board!



Okay, so moving on to this term. We have two new children to welcome into our class, Emily who started just before Christmas and Kalum who started this week – both children have settled in brilliantly and fitted into our busy and hardworking class perfectly.



We have two themes running alongside each other this term. In Geography and Art we will be taking a look at the seven continents and improving the children's knowledge of the locality, countries and weather features of each. We will also be exploring traditional art techniques from around the World. In Literacy we are looking at trailers and techniques that are used within them to persuade people and tempt them to watch the whole movie. The children will eventually be creating their own trailer based upon a movie that we will watch in class. They will be expected to select which eye-catching images they want, import music, text and a voice over. In Dance, they will be using the trailers as a stimulus to choreograph their own routine for a stunning group 'dance-off'.



Just before I go, here are a few (ish!) reminders:



1. PE is on a Monday and will be inside this term so your child will need a t-shirt, shorts and daps.
2. Please check that your child's jumpers/cardigans are named as I have a couple in the classroom with no home to go to.
3. Reading records should go home with the children each day and any reading done at home should be recorded by you or your child. Mrs Payne is poorly at the moment but as soon as she's back she will continue individual reading with the children and we'll get the stickers going again. The children are very welcome to bring in books from home if they would rather. Please ensure they are named though and small enough to fit in their bags or drawers -we've had some very large non-fiction books taking over their desks recently!
4. Please ensure that your child doesn't bring in any toys - many pockets seem to be filled with 'Halo' figures at the moment! They don't need toys for Golden Time either - we have plenty in class already!
5. As always, any parents who would like to pop in to help in class or talk to the children about their job or hobbies are always welcome – please nab me on the playground.
6. The school has recently bought 'Mathletics' - a website filled with Maths games and interactive videos that help children to learn key skills and number facts. The children are rewarded points for each game that they complete and there are both UK and World leader boards for the children to aim for a place on. The children have their own login details that I have attached to this letter – we have started to explore the site in class so they are all beginning to build their confidence and skills with it. If your child has access to the internet at home then please encourage them to spend time on the site! If not, then please don't worry – they will all have plenty of time to build up their score for the leader board at school.



I think that was everything that I needed to say! Have a wonderful start to 2012 and I look forward to giving you more news soon!

Kind regards,

Hannah Kellow