

# Straight out of the classroom

Topcliffe C of E Primary School Class 2, 3 & 4 news

**Class 2 - Phonics** – Year 1's have been looking at a variety of vowel phonemes for example; /ar/ as in park the car; /or/ as in born in the north; /ur/ as in burn the burger and /ear/ as in fear the dear. We regularly practise sentence structure, handwriting and grammar in our phonics lessons. Year 2's have been looking carefully at contractions e.g. can't and don't. **They have to be able to spell these correctly in independent writing to meet age related expectations** so it has been an important spelling rule to practise. They have also been revising some alternative versions of /ur/ e.g. work, earth, thirty, and herd.

**Class 2 - English** – We have been looking at –ed and –ing suffixes. We have explored how these often indicate whether a verb is past or present tense. Year 1's had a go at writing past and present tense sentences. Year 2's also wrote past and present tense sentences and had a go at a present progressive and past progressive. Progressive sentences are where an action is continuously happening and there is an auxiliary verb in the sentence e.g. The horse was jumping.

**Class 2 - Maths** – We have all been learning about subtraction this past two weeks. Year 1's have been exploring numbers to 20 in lots of ways and using different methods to help them solve subtractions. We have used number lines, tens frames and numicon to help them see what is happening when we subtract. Year 2's have also been exploring different methods for subtraction. We have used a number line to solve find the difference questions and we have used column subtraction as well. We have been finding how the inverse relationship helps us check an answer is correct.

**Class 2 - Afternoons** – Last Friday we enjoyed our Chinese New Year morning where we explored pentatonic scales, enjoyed Chinese food and made Chinese new year wishes. This week we have been continuing to explore China and have used atlases to find out about the main cities, rivers and mountains in the country. We have also found out which countries border China. In RE we have been reading some different Bible stories and we have been thinking about the morals in these.

## Class 4 news

**Maths** – We have been continuing our work on fractions this week. We have been learning about equivalent fractions, and how to compare and order fractions. We have also linked this to decimals and percentages and started to explore the relationship between the three. We are still working on our times tables and I really appreciate all your support with practising at home.

# Straight out of the classroom

Topcliffe C of E Primary School Class 2, 3 & 4 news

## Class 3 news

English – In English we have finished writing our news reports about the Stone Age settlement at Scara Brae and are now going on to write stories. We are now using different kinds of sentences in our writing including simple, compound and complex sentence types. Some of us have also been learning how to use a semi-colon to link two independent clauses together. See what interesting facts your child can tell you about life at Scara Brae.

## Class 3 – Maths -

In maths we have been continuing our work with fractions and have been finding equivalent fractions. We have been spotting the patterns for equivalent fractions for a half, a quarter and a third and have been thinking about finding equivalent fractions for non-unit fractions too. We have also been finding unit fractions (fractions with a numerator of 1) and non-unit fractions (fractions with a numerator greater than 1) of amounts. The children have done really well with this as they are both challenging concepts.

Class 4 - English – In English this week we have been continuing our work on formal and informal language. We have written CVs, newspaper reports and letters of application for the Roman army. We are currently using secondary sources in order to find more information out about York minster in order to write a non-chronological report. We have been continuing to work on our SPaG knowledge and in particular we have looked at inverted commas and both the present and past progressive tenses.

Class 4 - Afternoons – We had a fantastic day at York Minster this week on our Y5/6 trip. We learned all about the history of the Minster, about how they clean the windows and about the Archbishop of York. We also got to access the Minster learning centre and tried lots of hands-on activities. I wonder if your child can remember the full name of York Minster? In PE we have been working on how we start and finish our gymnastic sequences and we have been adding different types of rolls.

Class 3 - Afternoons – In the afternoon we have been finishing off our research into the Stone Age settlement at Scara Brae and have moved on to find out how life changed in the Bronze Age. The children have also made fabulous Stone Age models of houses, please do pop in and see them. I have been really impressed by their creativeness and attention to detail. In Science we have been learning about food webs and in P.E. we have been continuing playing Tag Rugby. We have been really enjoying this but it is very muddy at the moment, so thank you for your patience in keeping sports kit – and the children! clean. In RE, the children have been thinking about life as a journey and have created a map of their own life journeys, thinking about possible milestones for the future.

