



Stoneraise School

Class Hazel Newsletter Spring 1st Half Term

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and enjoyed some quality time together. I am really looking forward to this half term as we have some exciting new topics to start the new year.

Our new topic this half term will be based around the question:

What makes a great artist?

We will be considering this question as we study the life and work of the artist L.S Lowry. We will learn about his background and the techniques he used to create his work.

We are also planning on visiting the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle with the children to complete a drawing workshop and look at the art exhibits-more information regarding this to follow.



English

The text we will be studying this half term is the multi-award winning book *The Arrival* by Australian artist Shaun Tan. It is a completely wordless graphic novel. This text follows an emigrant's journey to a strange new land filled with fantastical landscapes and creatures. This links with our art based topic as we follow the story purely through illustration and will provide the children with some excellent opportunities in writing and in developing inference skills.

Mathematics

In maths, we will finish off our work on fractions before starting work on Position and Direction. After this, we will be focusing on our understanding of number by working on decimals up to 3 places, percentages (including percentages of amounts) and Algebra. In Algebra, we will be using simple formulae as well as forming and solving equations.

Science

In science our topic is *Let it Shine*. Through this topic the children will be able to explain how light travels and how we are able to see things. They will also explore why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them. We will link this with our topic by exploring art forms that use light and shadows.

Homework/Reading

We are continuing with our accelerated reader programme.

The children should aim to read at least 3 times per week at home, as well as reading daily in school.

Mathletics

I will set tasks for your child to complete during the week on Mathletics. There will also be a weekly spelling task to complete.

Each child will also be required to complete a project based on our current topic. This will last for the full half term. It is their choice how they choose to present their project. Some suggestions are: an information book, PowerPoint presentation, a piece of art or a poster. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to get creative and foster independent learning. **The homework project will be due on the final Monday of each half term.**

Our PE sessions will be on a **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoon.

If you have any questions regarding anything this half term please feel free to contact me.

Samantha Armstrong