



# Cotherstone Primary School 10th March 2023

## **A busy start to Spring 2 in Class 3**

In literacy we have been reading a fantastic story set within Ancient Maya, Rainplayer. The ancient Mayan belief that the future was divinely decreed and could not be changed is the basis for the original tale of a boy who must defeat the Rain God in a ball game to save his people from disaster. A rubber ball entered Class 3 with a message asking if they dare to play the most dangerous and deadly ball game of all time, Pok-A-Tok. Of course, Class 3 were willing and went outside to have a go at the game, which involves teams of 4-6 players using only their hip, knee or right elbow to score points when the opposing team fails to return the ball before it bounces a second time, or when the ball reaches the opposing end zone. Class 3 then 'feature spotted' a model text of instructions to identify the features before writing their own instructions on how to play the game!

This week we have been exploring speech and have used drama in the form of freeze framing before acting a missing scene from the text out. We then wrote our own drama pieces using speech punctuation rules. Class 3 then took role as director to instruct their friends to act their scene out, focusing on the dialogue within the scene. Well done C3, can't wait to read the ending... will Pik beat the almighty rain god, Chac, or will he be turned into a frog to croak his name for all of eternity?

Do you dare to play the most dangerous and deadly ball game of all time? Speed, accuracy and teamwork are paramount to the success of Pok-A-Tok, this Ancient Maya game.

Let it be known that, stakes are high:  
Win and you'll be treated like royalty,  
Lose and you'll be sacrificed to the gods.

Class 3 have been enjoying outdoor learning, despite the colder weather! We have been taking learning outdoors. In science, we carried out an experiment on air resistance using gyrocopters. We began by collecting natural materials to investigate how they fell when dropped. Within this, we discovered that sycamore seeds fell in a different way to the other materials (sticks, bark, leaves, pine cones etc). We then used created gyrocopters and tested to see how they fell and discovered that they fell at a different rate! Class 3 then came up with a variety of scientific enquiry questions to investigate in their groups to explore air resistance using gyrocopters. Some groups created huge gyrocopters and small ones to make observations about how each fell and what this showed them about air resistance. They then recorded their results in a table, on the playground using chalk before finding the average of their three drops (making it a fair test!). We then went indoors and created line graphs to present our data (whilst also demonstrating our maths skills!). Finally, they drew a diagram showing their results and identified and labelled the forces acting on their gyrocopters.

This week we have also been investigating water resistance - we are in the process of creating boats made from natural materials to test how they float/sink/move and how water resistance works! Being outdoors in all subjects but in this case, science, has a wide range of benefits, including providing the children with memorable learning experiences where they can test theories/explore/draw conclusions for themselves! 😊



### **Awards**

Class 1: Star of the Week: Scarlett for her amazing collage beach picture in Art and Design.

Presentation: Josie

Class 2: Star of The Week: To be announced next week

Class 3: Star of the Week: Year 6 for an excellent start to your SATs preparation - you are all amazing!

Presentation:Robby



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Thomas K - for always being so polite to Derrick (the chef) when getting his dinner

Calvin - for always eating up his dinner

Zara - for always being polite to the lunchtime staff

Scarlett N - for being a great role model

### **Homework**

Class 1 - Make snowballs of different sizes. You could attempt to build a snowball tower or throw snowballs at a target. Build a snowman, snow child, snow animal or snow building. Create snowcastles with buckets and spades. Write your name and favourite places in the snow. Use different coins and notes to make set amount of money up to £5.00

Class 2 - Literacy: Verb tense sorting activity. Maths: Fractions work. Spellings

Class 3 - Y6- SATs buster pieces (information in your homework folder!)

***Class 2 and 3 homework will be issued next week.***



### **Dates for your diary**

22nd March - Class 1 to football competition at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

23rd March - Class 3 to multi-skills event at Staindrop Academy

27th March - Class 2 to orienteering event at Staindrop Academy

31st March - School closes for Easter break

18th April - School reopens for summer term

***Thank you for your continued support.***

***If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.***

***Mrs Kidd and the Cotherstone Team***