



10th September 2020

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to year 6! I hope you had a lovely, restful summer. It has been wonderful getting to know the children this week and I am really excited about our year ahead, as we have many fantastic experiences to enjoy during their last year at Hawley.

Our topic for this term is, '**We Are Made From History**'. This topic is all about the Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings and then we compare our understanding when learning about the Kingdom of Benin after half-term. Whenever possible, this topic will be covered through cross curricular teaching and learning – linking subjects together to ensure a wholesome experience for the children.

In **English** we will be focusing on a range of texts to develop our skills in writing. This will begin with a look at a familiar text, 'Hansel and Gretel' by Neil Gaiman. Following that, our texts will link to our history topic as we learn how to write a persuasive speech as an Anglo-Saxon warrior. All of the texts used will provide rich opportunities for the children to develop their writing through a range of genres, such as diaries, letters, speeches, narratives and poetry. Furthermore, they will consider audience and purpose when writing and how this affects their use of language. Grammar will be taught in context when writing to embed the objectives for KS2. Spelling and handwriting will be taught regularly in addition to English lessons, although the children will be expected to transfer these skills when writing.

In **Maths** we will be consolidating our understanding of place value for numbers up to ten million. We will be revising the four operations as well as learning long division and the order of operations for the first time. When studying fractions, we will be revisiting our existing knowledge as well as learning how to multiply and divide fractions. Towards the end of the term, we will look at geometry, position and direction. The children will have daily opportunities to develop their arithmetic skills as well as having regular times table tests to ensure these vital skills are embedded.

In **Science**, we will be learning about the circulatory system. In our lessons, the children will develop skills in scientific enquiry as they plan and carry out investigations. They will have opportunities to explore the components of blood through practical activities and get to dissect an animal's heart to identify its different parts.

History is our main focus this term and we will be studying the Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings as well as the Kingdom of Benin. We explore themes such as settlement, trade,

invasion and achievements. The children will get the opportunity to explore artefacts from these periods in history, both in class and during a Viking workshop (date to be confirmed).

In **Geography** we will focus on map reading as we explore the United Kingdom. We will name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, its geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.

Art and D & T. will begin with a self-portrait inspired by the artist Chuck Close. We will then look at Anglo-Saxon crafts to design and make an Anglo-Saxon brooch. As we move into the second half of the autumn term, we will look at the bronze plaques and sculptures from the Kingdom of Benin and attempt to create replicas using clay, metal and mod roc.

In **Computing**, we will be learning about how to keep safe online as well as deepening our understanding of social media. Later in the term, we will focus on coding using Scratch and learn how to design and program our own games.

In **R.E.** we will be answering the question, 'Was Britain always a Christian country?' We will explore how Christianity came to Britain and what existed previously. We will learn about Viking beliefs through myths and sagas and compare and contrast their Gods and Goddesses with those of the Edo people of Benin.

In **P.S.H.E.** we will be thinking about our targets for the year ahead, healthy eating and learning about drugs and the risks involved.

PE/Games

Year 6 will have **gymnastics or dance** sessions on **Thursdays** in the hall and **games** on **Friday** afternoons with Coach Charlie. It is vital that your child comes to school wearing their PE kits on these days. Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn (no jewellery and long hair must be tied back). There will be no changing into PE kits on these days.

French

Year 6 will have **French** lessons with Chloe on Friday afternoons.

Music

Brass will continue to be on Tuesday mornings (9.00am – 10.00am) with our KS2 music teacher, Simon. Please ensure children practise at home and have their instrument in school on Tuesdays. This will commence on 22.9.20.

Home Learning

Every **Friday** your child will be given homework via Google Classroom. A range of tasks will be set that consolidate the learning of the week. This enables you to see what your child has been learning during that week. Please participate in their homework but allow the child to take the lead, assisting only if they are unsure or need something reading or explaining. Please also ensure that your child tries their best to ensure that their homework is of a good standard. Homework is due back on the following **Thursday**.

Year 6 Planners

The children have been given their year 6 planners. These are to be used to help prepare them for secondary school and encourage organisation and independence. These planners can be used to record key information and events that they need to remember. However, they must primarily be used as a record of their reading. Reading is **extremely important** so please ensure your child is reading a book everyday. They should record a little bit of information about what they have read in the diary section each day. I will be collecting these on **Fridays** to check and will sign them, once I have seen them. This way I can keep track of what they are reading at home.

Remember it is still important to listen to your child read. When reading with your child, please ask questions about the text to develop comprehension skills.

Punctuality

Please remember that children should be in the classroom at 8.55 am each morning. If they are not in the room by this time they will be recorded as late.

Visits and workshops this term:

Viking Workshop

Date to be confirmed

Yours sincerely,
Melissa Law