



10th September 2021

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers,

Year 6's 'Meet the Teacher' session will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday, 22nd September** at **4.00 pm**. A Zoom invitation will be emailed to you separately.

Welcome back and welcome to year 6! I hope you had a lovely, restful summer. It has been great 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 understanding the invasion and settlement of the Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings, which, later in the term, we later compare with the Kingdom of Benin. Whenever possible, the 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 begins with a look at traditional fairy tales using the text 'Grimm Tales for Young and Old' by Philip Pullman. Pullman retells the stories written down by the Grimm Brothers in Germany who wished to record the common practice of oral storytelling at that time. This links nicely with our topic, not only from originating from that geographical region, albeit some years earlier, but also as within the cultures of the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Kingdom of Benin, storytelling was a significant practice and method for communication. Towards the end of the half term, we will switch our attention to myths and fables as we explore the classic English poem 'Beowulf' using the version by Michael Morpurgo. The children will use their imagination to write their own myth inspired by the text. 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 a dedicated arithmetic lesson every Friday to ensure these skills are embedded. Times tables will be tested on a weekly basis.

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 sheep's/lamb's heart to identify its different parts. A letter will be sent out with further information before this activity takes place.

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, in class. We will be visiting the **British museum on 29th November 2021** for a special presentation about the Kingdom of Benin, which holds some important artefacts related to this period in history.

In **Geography** we will focus on map reading as we explore the continent of Africa in order to locate the former Kingdom of Benin, which is now southern Nigeria. We will work hard to name and locate as many countries and cities within Africa, and identify its 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 focus our attention on the skill of sketching by creating organic sketches inspired by the artist Peter Randall-Page. A trip to the **National Gallery** will help to deepen our understanding as we take part in a workshop 'What can paintings tell us about drawings' on **23rd September 2021** look at 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. Within the first half term, we will be completing an animation project to retell the story of Beowulf. This will be part of our **trip to the CLC on 4th October 2021**. Later in the term, we will focus on coding using Scratch.

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 **netball** 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 – 9.45am) with our KS2 music teacher, Simon. Please ensure children practise at home and have their instrument in school on Tuesdays. This will commence on 14.9.21.

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. Homework will include a maths task or activity; an English task (reading, writing or grammar); spellings for the week; and a project based task. Homework will consolidate the learning of the week and enable you to see what your child has been learning during that week. Allow your child to take the lead when completing their homework, 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 will be 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 every day. They should record a little bit of information about what they have read in the diary section each day. These will be monitored on **Fridays** to keep track of your child's 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 8.50am each morning. If they are not in the room by this time they will be recorded as late.

Visits and workshops this term:

National Gallery	23rd September 2021
CLC	4th October 2021
British Museum	29th November 2021
Regents Park	TBC

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions regarding your child's learning in year 6. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you soon.

Yours sincerely,
Melissa Law