

12th January 2023

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely, restful time over the holiday period. It has been great having the children back over the last couple of weeks and I am really excited about the spring term ahead, as we have many fantastic activities planned.

Our topic for this term is ‘**Birth of Nations**’. As part of this topic we will be learning about the

Vikings and their struggle for the Kingdom of England from 793 AD to the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The children will be able to build on their learning of the Anglo-Saxons and Scots, which they explored during the autumn term, and deepen their understanding of how England and the other nations in the United Kingdom came into being. This learning will support their work in English this term, which explores Shakespeare and his thrilling tragedy ‘Macbeth’. In the second half term, we will be exploring a thematic historical study on Crime and Punishment through the ages. 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, and this will begin with Macbeth. Using both drama and written work, the children will be introduced to the language of Shakespeare. We will use the text to develop our narrative writing, as well as our ability to write in role through diary and letters. In **Reading**, our class novel is High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson. However, we will also explore a range of non-fiction and poetry throughout the term to develop our skills in inference, summarising, sequencing and explanation. Grammar will continue to be taught in context when writing to embed the objectives for KS2, however, as we get closer to the year 6 SATs, we will have focused lessons to support key aspects of learning. Spelling and handwriting will be taught regularly in addition to English lessons, although the children will be expected to transfer these skills when writing. Please ensure your child regularly practises the year 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 spelling words, which are set for homework each week, and practises joining their writing at speed.

In **Maths** we will begin the term with ratio, a new topic for year 6. The children will learn the language of ratio, how to use the symbol as well as simplifying and calculating with ratio. We will then begin to look at algebra by exploring how to form expressions, substitution, as well as forming and solving equations. Towards the end of the half term, we will revisit decimals by recapping how to multiply and divide them by 10, 100 and 1000. This will be followed by extensive work on multiplying and dividing decimals and converting between fractions and percentages. After half term, we will look at measurement and converting between metric and imperial units. To complete the term, the children will consolidate prior knowledge of perimeter, area and volume.

Please ensure your child regularly practises their times tables, as this is fundamental ensuring progress through the maths curriculum.

In **Science**, our first topic is **Light,** which will consolidate learning from year 3 and build new knowledge. The children will carry out a number of investigations to prove that light travels in straight lines. Furthermore, they will explore the law of reflection; investigate reflective materials; observe changes over time by creating a Viking Sun Compass; explain how we see different colours; identify patterns in how bright each classroom within the school is; explore the structure of the eye and find out why some people wear glasses. In the second half term, we will revisit electricity and practically associate the brightness of a bulb with the number and voltage of cells. We will also learn how to use symbols to represent an electrical circuit.

**History** is our main focus this term and we will be studying the Viking struggle for the Kingdom of England from 793 to 1066. The children will challenge existing views of the Vikings and examine whether they deserve their bad reputation. They will also discuss whether we should label them as raiders or settlers by exploring artefacts that may contradict originally held beliefs. After February half term, we will look at Crime and Punishment throughout different periods in history. This will give the children an opportunity to revisit learning in previous years and subsequently deepen their understanding.

In **Geography** we will look at settlements. We will find out how you can tell if a place in Britain was a Viking settlement? We will name and locate the 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 Design** We will be exploring landscapes this term and look at the work of textile artist Alison King and her heath landscape collages. This will inspire us to create our own fabric collage of the heath in Macbeth. We will use photographs taken on our trip to Hampstead Heath to support the project.

**D&T**. This term, we will be making Viking Longships out of wood. We will be using a range of tools to make and construct our longships as well as spend time exploring different materials and processes necessary to aid in our constructions.

In **Computing**, we will consolidate our understanding of how to stay safe online and look in particular at social media and mental health. Throughout the term, we will also learn about data and how to use and formulate spreadsheets.

In **R.E.** we will be looking at Judaism and Authority. We will use our understanding to make a scroll and write a rule we think is important to live by.

In **P.S.H.E.** we will be learning about salaries and the value of money, whilst also exploring stereotypes around homelessness. We will end the first half term with some work on mental health and online safety.

**PE/Games**

**Swimming lessons** will begin on 9th January 2023 and will take place each afternoon for two weeks. Please ensure your child comes to school with the swimming kit. If you would like your child to walk home from Kentish Town Swimming Pool, please let the office know..

After our two weeks of swimming, Year 6 will have **PE** on **Thursday** afternoons with Coach Alfie. 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 Jen on Friday afternoons.

**Music**

Brass will continue to be on Tuesday mornings (10 - 11am) with our KS2 music teacher, Simon. Please ensure children practise regularly at home and have their instrument in school on Tuesdays.

**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.**

**Reading for pleasure**

Remember it is still important to listen to your child read at least two to three times a week. When reading with your child, please ask questions about the text to develop their 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:**The Globe Theatre 23rd January 2023

Hampstead Heath TBC

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions regarding your child’s learning in year 6.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Law