

# Halling Primary School Newsletter



## Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all the very best for the New Year.

I would like to thank all children, staff, parents and governors for making me feel so welcome this week. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you on the gate and work alongside the children across the school. The staff have worked hard to ensure that children have come back from the festive break ready to learn and the children have been able to discuss their learning confidently.

It is very clear to see that Halling Primary School has a fantastic community spirit. All members of the learning community work alongside one another to ensure that all children are happy, safe and learning. In order to develop this further, I am passionate about raising the profile of the 'parent forum.' Ideally, I would like two parents from each year group to be representatives for parents/ carers across the school. Termly, we will meet, along with the staff governors to discuss what is working well at Halling and what could be further improved. If you are interested in the position or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am very keen to get this started in the next term so please let me know if you are interested in the positions by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January so that I can arrange a meeting prior to the end of term.

As explained in my letter earlier this week, I will be holding 'welcome meetings' for parents and carers on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 9am and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 5:30pm. During these meetings, I will be able to share my vision and priorities for the school.

I thank you all again for your warm welcome.

Miss S Selmi  
Head Teacher

### Reminders

Please can we remind all parents that if you wish for your child to attend breakfast or after school club, you must book online and give 24 hours notice so that we can ensure that we have the appropriate number of staff and that food for all pupils is available. Thank you for your support in the matter.

## Early Years

Skylarks and Swallows classes will be continuing to work on our sounds in Read Write Inc and will be going into small groups to do this for the first time. We are focusing on set 1 sounds and blending them to read simple words. In Maths we are continuing our 'Number of the week' work; starting at 10. This will include counting, number recognition, addition, subtraction, doubling and halving. We will be finding out about Winter and doing a wide range of activities surrounding this topic, both in class and at Forest School. We will be keeping our fingers crossed for wintry weather! We will be exploring our school values, starting with 'compassion', 'respect' and 'thankfulness' and will also be building on our daily mindfulness and yoga sessions.

## Key Stage One

This term Year 1's topic is 'Bright Lights Big City', we will be learning about the Great Fire of London, comparing different cities in the UK and looking at the Stuart/ Tudor era. In Science we will continue to learn about Materials.

In Puffins and Kestrels (Year 2) this term, children will be learning about pirates through their exciting, new topic 'Land Ahoy!' They will be focusing on the text *The Night Pirates* and will be doing this through talk for writing. We will start this new topic with a 'wow day' of pirate activities. Children will be learning about important pirates throughout history and creating a fact file. In English this term the children will be focusing on writing instructions, recounts of real events, diary entries and poetry. Children will be going on a school trip to Chatham Dockyard where they will learn about the importance of lifeboats and Grace Darling. The children will gain geographical knowledge about the River Medway and will learn some key vocabulary about human and physical geography. In Maths we will begin to learn about multiplication, division and fractions. In PE the children will be learning tag rugby skills and gymnastic skills. In RE the children are continuing with Christianity by reading fables and parables.

## Key Stage Two

In year three (Kingfishers and Goldfinches) we are excited about our new topic - Tribal Tales! We will be kicking off by getting into our tribal dancing groove and exploring some buried artefacts. Throughout the topic we will delve into The Stone Age, The Bronze Age and The Iron Age, with focus on areas such as clothing, settlements, tools and weapons. We will be exploring the following books: 'Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age', 'The boy with the bronze dagger' and 'Stig of the Dump' and using them to write our own adventure story and letter.

In year 4/5, we will be studying 1066, including everyday life, the Battle of Hastings, the Bayeux Tapestry and William the Conqueror. On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January all children have been invited on our WOW day trip to Rochester. We will visit the Guild Hall Museum, where they will take part in educational activities, and the grounds of Rochester Castle. In English, we will be focusing on diary entries, non-chronological leaflets, kennings and job applications, linked to our topic of 1066. In Science, we have already studied 'sound' including investigations into vibrations, pitch and amplitude. In PE, we are focusing on tag rugby and gymnastics.

As a result of the children's enthusiasm for their learning about Frozen Kingdom in Term 2, Year 6 will continue with this unit for a few more weeks. Having already explored the geographical features of the two Polar regions, the children will be using their knowledge and skills to complete a range of fantastic learning tasks, including:

- A Survival Guide for explorers who are visiting Antarctica
- A musical composition re-telling a journey through the Antarctic

In Computing, the children will be reflecting on the progress which they have made by creating PowerPoint presentations ready for their next Learning Review at the end of this term.

Year 6 are excited to be starting their swimming sessions at Larkfield this week, too.

In a few weeks, Year 6 will move on to their next topic, 'Spiderwick' based on the text, 'Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You'.

