



## Hatfield Heath Primary School

Hatfield Heath • Bishop's Stortford • Hertfordshire • CM22 7EA

Telephone: 01279 730382 • Facsimile: 01279 739023

Email: [admin@hatfieldheath.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hatfieldheath.essex.sch.uk) • Website: [www.hatfieldheath.essex.sch.uk](http://www.hatfieldheath.essex.sch.uk)

*Head teacher: J H Clements MA*

January 2018

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to all of you! We have had a fantastic start to the term and it has been wonderful to see how engaged the children are with our World War II topic. We have had so many historical artefacts coming in, which has really brought the topic to life. Thank you and please do keep them coming in.

In English we are continuing to focus on understanding and using a wide range of punctuation in writing including brackets, dashes, colons and semi-colons. The children will continue to develop a wider knowledge of grammatical terms and spelling patterns. We will be developing our research and note-taking skills to explore information linked to World War II and use this to produce creative writing. For example, the children will be writing a dairy entry from the point of view of a child who experienced The Blitz. They will apply their historical knowledge and vocabulary as well as new writing skills linked to punctuation and grammar. We are fortunate enough that Jack's granddad, Derek Millen, has come in today to share his experiences of World War II with the children, which always helps to inspire and develop their ideas. We are also planning to visit Duxford Imperial War Museum after half term to see some of the tanks, planes and weapons used during the war.

The children have already taken a strong interest in both the stories and information books linked to World War II in school. If your children are enthused about the topic please do encourage them to talk, read and carry out research, using books or websites. High quality discussions and asking children questions about the books that they are reading moves their understanding forward. Your continued involvement at home with the questioning and discussion around your children's reading is extremely valuable. We still expect the children to read a variety of texts regularly at home (5 time a week - at least 3 times to an adult).

In Maths the children have been learning how to use a protractor and ruler with increasing accuracy to draw 2D shapes with specific angles and lengths of sides. They have been learning how to solve problems where there are missing angles, using their knowledge of angles (e.g. the angles of a triangle add up to 180°). They will be exploring how to solve problems involving calculating the percentage of numbers (e.g. 15% of 40). Fractions play a significant part of the Year 5 and 6 Maths curriculum. We will revise and develop new strategies including ways to add,

subtract, multiply and divide with fractions. We will go on to explore the relationship between decimals, fractions and percentages.

In Art the children will be using historical photos and mixed media to depict scenes from The Blitz as silhouettes.

In RE they will learn about the Jewish religion and we will sensitively explore the treatment of the Jews by the Nazis during World War II, including reference to Anne Frank.

In PE we have been learning a street dance. As well as learning and performing a sequence of movements in time to music, they will go on to devise their own street dances in small groups. In gymnastics the children will create a group floor performance in symmetry, where they will link the actions smoothly showing control, quality and clarity in their actions. After half term the children will complete a unit on hockey. They will learn how to dribble, pass and shoot the ball and apply their understanding of tactics and positioning to work as a team. They will also play and devise their own invasion games with a focus on strategy and communicating effectively as a team.

In Music the children have been continuing to learn how to play chords and compose tunes on the ukuleles. This term, they will also be writing and performing anti-bullying raps.

In PSICHE we will be looking at managing finances and beginning to explore how money is used in everyday life. Alongside this, we will be considering our 'Grow £1' fundraising initiative in conjunction with Grove Cottage. This will be a chance for children to take financial responsibility for a small charity fundraising initiative including planning their activities and forecasting their profits! We are competing against several other local schools for who can raise the most money so fingers crossed.

Our Science units this term include 'grouping and classifying living things' and 'Light'. In 'grouping and classifying living things' the children will learn to recognise the differences between plants and animals. They will learn how to group living things based on their observations and develop a deeper knowledge of the characteristics of different living things. The children will learn how light travels and how we are able to see things. They will develop their understanding of how shadows are created and why their shape and position can change.

In French the children will continue to extend their knowledge of the vocabulary associated with dates, months of the year and days of the week. We will also learn how to name the members of the family in French.

In Computing the children will be producing increasingly complex programmes including a text based adventure, where different responses will result in the adventure taking a different path. They will become more proficient at identifying errors (bugs) in their coding and to fix (debug) these to improve their programmes.

In DT the children will be using K-Nex to build different models that use gears and to explore how the gears work. They will explore different combinations of gears and learn about the ratios of teeth, which will link to their Maths work. If you have any toys or gadgets at home that use gears we would love for them to come in. We will be starting this unit shortly.

Whilst still delivering a varied and engaging curriculum, we will be supporting the children in preparation for their SATs tests. These are National tests that Year 6 children are required to take between **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. There will be tests in Maths, Reading and 'Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar'. The children will be taking some practice tests before half term and in March to gently prepare them for these tests and to help us identify any areas which they may need further support with in school and at home. We will be helping the children with strategies to manage their time effectively and to help them stay calm in test situations and leading up to the tests. I will be holding a presentation before Easter, providing a breakdown of the tests and advice as to how to support your children at home.

There has been an issue with a number of our Year 6 children not having the correct PE kit in school and handing in homework late. Responsibility for ensuring they have kit, books and homework in school on the right day increases in secondary school so your continued support in helping them to become more aware of what they need in school and on what day is essential in preparing them for this step. This could be as simple as a weekly timetable in their bedrooms, which they have to check each day with the day that home work needs handing in (Wednesday) and the PE days (Monday and Wednesday) shown. Thank you.

If you have any questions about the areas mentioned above or any other aspects of Year 6 please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. Aiken

Mrs. G. Jackman