



Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Well, I can't quite believe we're into the third and final term of Year 5 already! We had an extremely busy spring term and the children certainly deserved any Easter eggs they received after all their hard work. I hope you enjoyed the *Maths in Art Week* work we shared – I saw lots of you creating your own masterpieces too.

The summer term promises to be just as busy and action packed with our topic focussing on the history of closer-to-home locations around Essex. We will be investigating how the county has changed and developed over time, from the Roman invasion through to 1066 and the lasting legacy of the people who helped shape Britain with a specific focus on The Vikings in the second half of the term.

Your children's continued commitment to reading at home is to be commended so thank you for all the support and encouragement you are giving them with this. They are all such keen readers and I love sharing their enthusiasm and excitement for the books they are reading. As I said before, although I know many of the children like to read independently, please continue to listen to your children read as often as possible and chat to them about what they are reading. This is having a real impact on their reading attainment as well as their enjoyment of reading. I would like them to read every day if possible, with a minimum of 3 reads over a week. Don't forget to record whether they have read to an adult or independently.

Our English lessons will focus on *The Highway Man* by Alfred Noyes, a narrative poem about a character said to be based on Dick Turpin, who frequented the local area. We will undertake several pieces of fiction and nonfiction writing, using the tale as our stimulus and we look forward to sharing some of this with you later in the term.

We will be focussing on spelling, grammar and how to structure writing effectively this term too as well as identifying specific grammar elements within writing. To support the children's understanding with this, I will be sending activities home as part of their home learning.

In Maths, we are continuing to focus on both mental and written forms of calculation and the children are becoming increasingly secure with their number knowledge and understanding. As with our grammar and spelling work, I will be sending more maths home learning activities home to ensure your children stay confident and fluent with key maths concepts but please do not hesitate in getting in touch if your child/ren has/have any worries about this. We will be investigating fractions, percentages and decimals and the link between these as well as graphs, timetables, symmetry and much more.

The children loved the science topic of Materials last term and participated enthusiastically! We had great fun separating different materials and learning about dissolving too. This term we will be learning about forces and carrying out experiments that explore gravity as well as air and water resistance. We really do have a class of budding scientists and their depth of understanding and inquisitive nature is fantastic! In the second half of the term, we will be focussing on *Health and Growth*; I will send you more information about this nearer the time.

Linked to this and as part of our design technology learning, we will be exploring food groups with a final product being the design of a salad, forming part of a balanced diet. The children will be learning how to safely prepare and chop food as well as how to present it! If you have the time to practise cutting and preparing foods at home, it would be really helpful and I may well be asking for volunteers on the day. In Art we will be studying the art of the Vikings and our RE focus will be the celebrations and festivals of the Islamic Faith. We will be learning about blogging and writing blogs in ICT, which should be really interesting and teach us all many new skills! We are revisiting numbers in French and learning to count to 60 and our PSHCE learning will be around *managing risk* before moving on to our *Sex and Relationships* unit about puberty. More information about this will follow nearer the time.

Our PE days are on a Wednesday and Thursday. We will continue to do outdoor sessions so please make sure your child/ren has/have suitable outdoor clothing and footwear in school. We will be having cricket lessons with a coach from the Herts and Essex Cricket Club, which is very exciting and also doing a spot of athletics. Our Swimming days will be announced shortly and as before the children will have two swimming lessons a week. Again, effort with Home Learning last term was absolutely fantastic so thank you all so much for supporting your children with this. If your child/ren has/have any difficulties at all, please don't hesitate in letting me know so I can give them any support they need.

Here's to another exciting and action packed term!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Collier