



Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a brilliant summer break. It was great to meet so many of you at the move up day.

We have had an excellent start to the year already and have a busy and exciting term ahead of us. Our theme this half term is 'Stone Age to the Iron Age', where we will be exploring what life was like and how it changed during these periods. We will learn about the uses of materials and the development of tools. In Science the children will research different types of rocks and will become detectives, making and discovering their own fossils. If your child has any rocks or fossils at home, or has found any at the beach, it would be great to share them with the class! In Art the children will develop skills in sketching Stone Age people and tools; they will make clay pots and Stone Age jewellery.

Our class books this half term, which both link to the Stone Age, are 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King and 'Ug – boy genius of the stone age' by Raymond Briggs. In English, our writing will be linked to these books and will include writing instructions and letters, creating comic strips and writing character profiles. In addition to developing writing skills, the children will be consolidating their understanding of the texts through role play, freeze frames and drama.

During the second half of this term our focus will be 'Emergency - Volcanoes and Earthquakes!' We will begin by looking at locations and causes of volcanoes and earthquakes. We will measure the scale of earthquakes, look at the structure of volcanoes and research the benefits of living close to a volcano. In DT we will design and make our own volcanoes, which children will be able to erupt. While in Science, the children will be learning about 'Forces' with Mrs Coates-Reynolds.

After half term, we are also hoping to visit the Natural History Museum in London to consolidate our Stone Age topic work and take part in a volcano inspired workshop (more information to follow.)

Our English lessons for Autumn 2 will be linked to our volcanoes and earthquakes topic. Through the use of information texts, children will identify key features of texts; create their own information sheets/leaflets and write newspaper reports related to the topic.

We will be having many discussions in PSHCE linked to growth mindset, healthy lifestyles and friendships.

In Computing, the children will be developing their keyboard skills and learning about how to stay safe online. They will also create a Powerpoint presentation addressing the importance of e-safety. During RE lessons we will be learning about Hinduism and the customs and festivals that are celebrated. If anyone has any family or relatives that are Hindus, we would love for them to be able to come and talk to the children about their religion.

In PE the children will be creating sequences in gymnastics and dance, as well as developing their ball skills during football and netball. **PE will be on Tuesday and Wednesday each week.** Please ensure your child has the correct, labelled kit in school on these days. They should also have a water bottle in school that is labelled. Earrings are not to be worn.

In Maths the children will be learning to recognise the place value of the digits in a 3-digit number and find 10 or 100 more or less than any number. They will learn how to solve practical problems involving numbers up to 1000 by ordering, comparing and estimating numbers. The children will also learn strategies to mentally add and subtract a three-digit number and ones, tens and hundreds. You can support your child at home by asking questions to compare numbers such as "what is the same and what is different between the numbers 246 and 642?" This encourages children to explore the place value of the digits. You can also get them to count in ones, tens and hundreds from any two or three-digit number and also by adding and subtracting ones, tens or hundreds in practical contexts e.g. "I have 199 football cards and get 60 for my birthday. How many do I have now?"

During guided reading sessions, we will be carrying on the series of Project X books from Year 2. The children will be asked questions to infer what they have read and to predict what may happen next. They will be able to take home their coloured reading book and a free choice book from the school library, which they can change independently. At home, it is extremely important that you read with your child regularly (at least 3 times a week) and carry on questioning and discussing what they have read independently. Not only will this have a positive impact on their reading, it will strongly support their progress in writing by introducing them to different sentence structures, vocabulary and creativity.

The children will receive spellings and times tables and will have a test the following week. Please ensure you support your child by practising these with them at home. Home learning, linked to our class work, will usually go out on a Wednesday and be due in on the Monday.

If you have any questions or queries, then please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gavin Strickfuss