



WEST HADDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 3

Year 6

Welcome

I hope that you have all had a good break over this festive period and that your children have re-charged their batteries ready for 2024.

Last term was a very busy one with focus on maths and English in the mornings, and an in-depth look into the other subjects in the afternoon. The children gained a good understanding of the history of Britain from the time the Romans left to the time the Normans invaded in 1066. They have also applied impressive tailoring skills when making their waitcoats for their cuddly toys during design and technology lessons. They had to measure their toys to make a template that fitted snugly, before cutting their material, hemming the sides and then joining the panels using 2 types of stitches. Keep an eye out for these waitcoats as they close to being finished!

I must also mention how well both year 6 and year 5 did in making the origami Christmas tree. It was great fun to make, looked fantastic and was a well-deserved win. Well done children!

Topic

We start a new topic this term: The Maya. This is a fascinating topic looking at an ancient culture and civilisation. We will study the time and location of the Maya and their everyday life, as well as studying the social structure of their society. We will look at their religious beliefs and practices, as well as studying their writing and architecture. Being the oldest children in the school, we will consider the mystery of this civilisation's demise. We explore if it was a natural disaster that wiped out their cities, or if it was the European diseases brought over by the Spanish invaders that spread through their population. We look at the environmental damage caused by the Maya's farming practice of clearing the rainforests for farming, and consider whether there are lessons to be learned in modern times as we clear the Amazon rainforests in modern times.

Dates and Things to Remember

Year 6 P.E. days continue on a Friday afternoon, led by Ben Stoneman.

Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – year 6 SATs week.

We are looking forward to our visit to the Houses of Parliament. Slots are limited, and competition for them is intense. I'm sure you'd like to join me in thanking Mrs Bowers for queuing on phone for hours to get us our place.

Maths & English

The children have now sat their second SATs paper in test conditions – using the past materials produced by the Department for Education. Using these results over the year we can begin to see how children will most likely do in the real thing. Above all, they give a clear indication of the gaps that we can work on in the coming months.

An overall percentage and the final grading, using the grade boundaries for that year, was sent home before the Christmas break. We send papers as any time spent looking through these papers with your child is very valuable as it picks up individual gaps. You will also find this kind of discussion helps children see where they have made 'simple mistakes'. Learning how to sit an official test is an important part of year 6.

Homework

Homework continues to be set on a Thursday and needs to be handed in on a Tuesday. Spelling tests will take place on a Thursday.

Please can you ensure that your child is up to date with their class reading book. The SATs reading paper is a very challenging one and these books help prepare the children to cope with the amount of text that they will need to read in the hour.

**Our Value for this month is
HOPE**

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