



# 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. And a big thank you for the kind and very thoughtful gifts!

Last term was a very busy one. 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 making their waitcoats for their cuddly toys during design and technology lessons. They have had to measure their toys to make a template that fitted snugly, before cutting their material to the right size and shape. They are currently hemming the sides before joining the panels using 2 types of stitches. Keep an eye out for these waitcoats and some very stylish Teds.

Well done too for the year 5 and 6 Tree Festival entry. The printed Christmas crackers were fantastic and this was a well deserved win for both classes. 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. 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 practise of clearing the rainforests for farming, and consider whether there are lessons to be learned in modern times as we clear the Amazon rainforests for farming and minerals.

## 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 grade 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. Often an additional 1 or 2 questions can get the children over a grade boundary. You will also find this kind of discussion helps children see where they have made 'simple mistakes'. Learning how to sit an official test an important part of year 6.

## Dates and Things to Remember

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

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – year 6 SATs week.

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

## 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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