



## Oak Class Parents/Carers Term 1 Newsletter

### The Battle of Hastings

Welcome back. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Our topic this term is The Battle of Hastings. I am already very impressed by the way that the children have come back into school; they have been eager, smart and ready to learn. They have all chosen books that they are excited about reading; we have talked a great deal about the importance of reading for pleasure and not just because Mrs Ivil nags you!

#### English

We will be reading 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell as well as non-fiction texts about the Battle of Hastings and extracts from 'Anglo-Saxon Boy'. We will be studying and writing about characters, settings and narratives based on the text. We will be learning how to read with expression and fluency. The children should be reading at home at least 5 times a week and will receive a prize for this. The reading records need to be signed by an adult – they are checked on a Friday. Library books will be changed every Monday.



#### Maths

We will be working on place value this term. This includes reading and writing numbers to 1,000,000 (Year 5) and 10,000,000 (Year 6), comparing and partitioning numbers and rounding. We will also learn about Roman Numerals. Every morning we will be practising

#### History

##### The Battle of Hastings

Some of the key questions that we will research and discuss will be: Can you describe what happened in the Battle? Can you analyse and evaluate William's winning tactics? Why is the Norman Conquest seen as significant? What were the implications for England? What could Harold have done differently? Was it William's strength or Harold's weakness that affected the outcome? How can we use the Bayeux Tapestry as a source to investigate what happened between Harold's Saxon Army and William of Normandy's?

#### Art

##### 2D Drawing and 3D Making

We will learn that drawing and making have a close relationship; that drawing can be used to transform a two dimensional surface, which can be manipulated to make a three dimensional object; that when we transform two dimensional surfaces we can use line, mark making, value, shape, colour, pattern and composition

arithmetic to improve our fluency. It is very important that the children know their times tables and associated division facts – please help them at home.



### **Science Forces**

Children will be able to explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object. They will be able to identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces and recognise that some mechanisms including levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

### **RE**

Christianity: How do Christians show their belief that Jesus is God incarnate?

### **Life Skills**

Keeping Safe: Road Safety, basic first aid, making an emergency call, online safety and how to report any concerns. We will discuss the importance of behaving in a respectful way online, the same as in real life.

to help us create our artwork; that we can use methods such as the grid method and looking at negative space to help us draw and that there is a challenge involved in bringing two dimensions to 3 dimensions which we can solve with a combination of invention and logic.

### **Computing**

#### **Coding**

We will design and make a playable game with a timer and a score, learn how to use functions, use flowcharts and control simulations and create text-based adventures.



### **Music**

We will listen to and learn 'Hey, Mr Miller' which has three layers in a jazz/swing style and refers to Glenn Miller and his swing band. We will discover and learn about swing-style jazz and some of the most renowned big band leaders of 1930s and 1940s America and explore rhythm work, creating and improvising off-beat (syncopated) rhythm patterns and melodies as well as develop a group performance.

### **PE**

Football with Mrs Ham



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### Dates for the Diary

PGL 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> September for Year 6 (children need a packed lunch on Monday and to be picked up at 11.30 to get to Windmill Hill for 12).

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November Glyndebourne Opera *L'elisir d'amore* (information to follow)

### Important Reminders

It is imperative that your child reads at least 5 x a week for about 20 minutes. This can be non-fiction, poems, news and graphic novels as well as fiction texts.

### PE Days

Our PE day is usually on a Monday – please can your child come into school wearing their PE kit. If the day changes we will let you know.

### Useful Websites

I will send home the TT Rockstars passwords so please can you check that your child can log on and is using it regularly as tables knowledge will help in every area of Maths.

'Hit the button' is also useful for Maths fluency e.g. doubles, halves and number bonds.

Any research on the Battle of Hastings using trusted websites will support classwork.

### Homework

Homework will go out on a Friday and is expected back the following Thursday so that we can go through it. There is less homework than in previous years as we expect more reading as this is the key to learning. Homework consists of 'Grammar Hammer', spellings and tables practise. The spelling test and a tables test is on a Friday. Year 6 will receive more homework towards the end of the year to support them with their transition to secondary school.

We are really looking forward to this term. Please contact me via the office or at the end of the day if you would like any additional information. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Ivil