



## Hawthorn Class Newsletter September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to an exciting year in Hawthorn Class. My name is Miss Binns and I will be assisted by Mrs Saxton and Mrs Westley. We are looking forward to a fun packed year of learning. Our aim is that everyone should try their best and enjoy discovering new concepts and ideas.

For our times tables we are learning the associated division sums as well as the multiplications, so I would appreciate it if you could ask some division sums too when helping your child learn their tables. To begin with in Maths, we will be working on the value of digits in 3-digit numbers and then we will work on mental and written methods for addition and subtraction. There will be a variety of challenges in each lesson so that all children will be able to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the concepts.

In Literacy our lessons will be based on the book, 'Leon and the Place Between'. We will create a fantasy world, based on real life experiences, use role play to help us to write in role and write our own stories based on the story from another character's point of view.

This term our topic is called 'Home Sweet Home'. We will be looking at houses in different countries as well as buildings in different periods of history. Later on in the term we will walk around the village to look at the types of materials used to build houses in Lower Halstow. In Art we will look at buildings designed by Gaudi, creating one of our own in a similar style, as well as working in the style of Van Gogh. Our final project will be creating a colour wash and silhouette of a city skyline. Our topic will culminate with Design Technology, where we test a variety of roof materials to find the most suitable one which will keep our 'house' the driest. With this in mind, if you have any unwanted shoe boxes, these would be gratefully received, please.

From September 2017 Religious Education (RE) will be following the Kent Agreed Syllabus (KAS) which incorporates the new resource "Understanding Christianity". Each unit has a key question which is developed over a school term. Key questions are also being developed for other faiths that are part of the KAS. In Terms 1 and 2 our key questions to explore are:

What is it like to follow God? (Christianity)

What is important for Sikh People? (Sikhism)

Your child's weekly homework will include a spelling, maths and literacy activity being sent home on a Friday, which is due in by the following Wednesday, which your child is expected to complete, please. Each week the children will be given a list of spellings to learn, which will be tested each Thursday, sometimes through a dictation task. Regular reading to an adult each day is important, as well as having a discussion with your child about what they have read and their opinions about the characters or the plot. Our PE days are on Mondays and Fridays, so please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school on these days. Please can I request that earrings are not worn on these days, to make the changing process easier for your child. Also hair which is long enough should be tied back. It would also be helpful that all uniform and PE items are named, please as these are often mixed up when changing.

I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Miss Binns