



Harwell Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, Happy New Year to you and your families, I hope that you enjoyed a restful Christmas break. I would also like to say a huge thank you for the thoughtful gifts and beautiful cards I received from the children, it was incredibly kind of you all. We have made such a positive start to our learning in Year Three and I write this with a smile on my face as I think of how much the children have all grown in confidence.

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to the lovely Mrs Jesson who joined us for a few weeks. I know the children will miss her lots, and so will I. This term, we are very fortunate to have the wonderful Mrs Adams joining us in Year 3 and 4.

We are starting this term with a **Victorian school experience day**, so please if possible, could your child come to school dressed as a Victorian school child. For example, a jacket and cap for boys and a long dress with a bonnet/ hat for girls. **Please could they also bring in a penny for their school fees.** This will be returned to them at the end of the day. They will not need their PE kit.

This will help us explore our new project '**Vile Victorians**'. develop an understanding of what life was like in Victorian times, the key events that happened during Queen Victoria's reign and how inventions from that time have changed how we live today.

Our big question is: ***Were the Victorians vile or victorious?***

In **literacy** this term, we will be using our new historical knowledge to write a tragedy story inspired by the tale of the Cotton Mill Girl. We will also be stepping into the shoes of a poor Victorian child to write a diary entry to recount a day in their lives living in a workhouse. To help the children develop a sense of empathy towards this child, I will be employing lots of drama and music-based activities to help the children understand what life might have been like for them and how it felt to live a life of cruelty. The modern classic, '**Stig of the Dump**' by **Clive King** will be our guided reading book for this term and I am also looking forward to sharing various non-fiction texts through our Victorian reading environment to build upon the children's historical understanding and encourage them to think critically about how different Victorians lived.

In **maths**, we will be consolidating our knowledge of multiplication and division. We will also be focusing on measurement through money and learning about statistics. In addition to this, I am introducing daily rapid times table sessions to help the children's recall and fluency, which will support their understanding in all mathematical areas.

In **Science** we will be learning about rocks and solids, including the types of rocks that form Planet Earth and the work of Mary Anning, a famous Victorian fossil collector and paleontologist.

In **PSHE** our topic will be all about 'Dreams and Goals'. In **RE** we will be focusing on Hinduism and Sikhism, with the intent of understanding, acknowledging and accepting that other people's faiths and beliefs are important.

In **PE** we will be making fitness fun by focusing on circuits. I will be encouraging the children to document and monitor their own progress and comparing their fitness levels between sessions.

In **Modern Foreign Languages**, we will continue practicing listening, talking, reading, and writing in Spanish with Mrs Shorter.

Homework this term will begin on the 4th January. On **Friday**, children will be set both multiplication tables to practise on Times Table Rockstars and spellings on SpellingShed (paper copies can be provided for anyone who experiences technical difficulties). Children will be tested on both their spellings every Friday and multiplications daily, therefore it is in their interest to practise these.

I will be checking to make sure homework is completed each week. If you or your child ever want any support or resources to help with this please do not hesitate to ask.

We also ask that children read for 10 minutes each day. This can be to themselves, to you, a sibling or even a teddy bear. Please encourage reading for pleasure everywhere in every way you can. If you could record at least three of these in your child's reading record that would be greatly appreciated.

On **Monday and Tuesday mornings** the class will continue to be taught by the wonderful Mrs Shorter.

PE will take place on a **Tuesday** afternoon.

Some points to remember:

- If, for any reason, you wish for your child not to take part in a PE lesson, please may we ask for a written note from you.
- On PE days, please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit (black shorts/trousers, plain white t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls, all named and labelled). School jumpers and cardigans can be worn over their white t-shirts.
- To avoid lost kits can you please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.
- Please also ensure they bring water to school in a labelled bottle.

Our outcome for the term will take place on the **17th February from 2pm until 2:30 pm** and will be an opportunity for the children to showcase their learning and critical understanding of Victorian life in a variety of creative ways.

Thank you again for your support as we head into a new year and another lively term of learning! Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any concerns or questions.

Kind regards,

Miss Bennett and the Year Three Team.