

*Dear Parents/ Guardians,*

*I hope you had a lovely summer and your children are looking forward to an important year in Class Viking. Here is an overview of what we will be studying over the next term.*

**ENGLISH:**

***Futuristic worlds:*** *To link with our twenty-five year celebrations, the children will be exploring what the world might look like in the future.*

***Persuasion:*** *As we will be studying the Victorians, our persuasion unit will focus on the Great Western Railway. At the end of the unit, the children will attempt to sell their train design with persuasive speeches.*

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret:*** *In this book unit children will explore the life of a young boy named Hugo Cabret who lives in a Paris train station, while at the same time improving their fictional writing skills.*

**MATHS:** *this term we will be covering the following areas:*

- *Number*
- *Calculating (including arithmetic)*
- *Geometry and Measures – especially converting units of measure and finding the properties of 2D & 3D shapes*
- *Statistics – including using averages as well as constructing and interpreting pie charts and tables of data.*

**TOPIC:**

***Victorians:*** *The children will travel through the Victorian period, focusing on the inventions of the period. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, the children will visit Chipping Sodbury High Street to sing songs. If it is possible for your child to dress in Victorian clothing, it would add to the authenticity of the event. More details to follow.*

***Christmas:*** *Children will be getting into the Christmas spirit through D&T, art and music. They will also investigate the Christmas story in RE, considering why there are different versions.*

***RE:*** *As well as the Harvest and Christmas RE, children will be investigating 'Life's Journey'. We will be focusing on how different religions celebrate life events eg birth, death, and marriage, as well as contemplating some of life's big questions such as 'what happens to us after death?'*

***Science:*** *Science skills will be taught in one discrete lesson each week. These will focus on areas, such as: predicting, analysing data, evaluating etc. Outside of these lessons children will be studying light and circuits, linked to inventions and Christmas.*

***PSHE:*** *Our unit this term will be 'New Beginnings'. This will aid the children to make a fresh start in their new class and begin to prepare them for the added responsibility of life in Year 6.*

***PE:*** *Children must have labelled PE kits (including suitable footwear) in school every day as they will each run for 3 minutes most mornings to earn achievement certificates eg 5 mile certificate. In PE lessons children will be taking part in Invasion games eg Football and Tag Rugby, as well as developing balance, agility and coordination before working on gymnastic skills.*

***Homework:*** *Homework will be set every day and the timetable will run as follows:*

Monday	Reading and spelling* (Reading record to be signed)
Tuesday	Number clubs and times table practice
Wednesday	Reading and spelling* (Reading record to be signed)
Thursday	Topic (To be handed in following Monday)
Friday	Numeracy or Literacy (To be handed in following Monday: if you are away for the weekend then please come and see me)

\*Note that a separate spelling homework letter will be sent out.

### **How can you help your child?**

Here are a few ideas of things that you can do at home that will help your child's development:

- Help them to complete their homework and take pride in what they produce.
  - Read with them as often as possible or ask them questions about what they have been reading if they are more confident.
  - Encourage them to pack their own school bag, taking responsibility for their own things.
  - Ask them what they have done at school and discuss it (hopefully they won't say, "Nothing!").
  - Correct their speech if they say things incorrectly.
  - Orally practice times tables or related facts eg  $6 \times 7 = 42$ ,  $0.6 \times 7 = 4.2$ .
- NOTE:** By Year 6 children should know all of their times tables up to  $10 \times 10$ .
- Ask them to tell you what the time is using analogue clocks (ie faces rather than digital).
  - Challenge them to add up shopping items or select which option is best value for money.
  - Play educational games on the Internet including Skoolbo.
  - Help them become independent learners by having set routines eg always do homework and go to bed at a set time.

I am usually available to meet parents to discuss any issues quickly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school. If you require a longer meeting, we can reach a mutually convenient date. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Swanson