



# Hawthorn Class Newsletter



## Autumn Term 1 2024

Welcome to the start of a new academic year for all of Hawthorn Class and their families. We hope you have had a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to some exciting adventures in our learning this year.

We would like to outline to you some of the expectations we have for this year. Homework will be given on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday. It is a really positive opportunity for your children to share the learning that goes on in school with you and consolidate the key learning undertaken in lessons.

We are providing gradually increasing amounts of homework to help prepare our pupils for their secondary transition. In readiness for secondary school, we want the children to become as independent as possible, so doing things like getting their bags ready for school the night before and making sure they have everything they need is a great start.

Children in Year 6 are also given the privilege of being able to walk home or to meet their adult at a safe meeting point. If you would like them to do this, you will need to send in a letter explaining that you are happy for them to do this, sign and date it.

### Reading



It seems we have a fantastic class of keen readers – this is brilliant as it helps children enrich their vocabulary and opens their imaginations.

Reading books will be changed regularly. The children will be heard reading and will be read to frequently in school. It will be most beneficial if you can hear them read as much as possible at home as well. This not only helps develop their personal reading and comprehension skills but also widely improves their vocabulary for use in their writing.

As a minimum expectation we want the children to read three times a week for twenty minutes at home with an adult. This will need to be recorded in their homework and will be rewarded with Dojos in class.

### PE

We will be undertaking PE and swimming learning on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

This means that your child will need to have PE/swimming kits in school on these days. They should come to school in their normal school uniform.

PE kits should include a pair of trainers for when they are outside doing games and athletics, however bare feet are fine when we are in the hall for dance and gymnastics.

If your child has pierced ears, please remove their earrings before school on PE/swimming days or provide tape to cover them.



### **Your handy check list of what to bring to school!**

#### Every day

Reading book

Water bottle.

Lunch (if not school dinners)

All-weather clothing

Homework Diary

#### Special days

Tuesday – Swimming kit.  
Goggles (must have note to explain need)

- ➔ Swimming hat
- ➔ Swimming costume/  
swimming shorts
- ➔ Towel

Wednesday – PE kit



## **Curriculum Learning**

We wanted to share with you some information about what your children will be learning in school this term. For our **themed learning**, we are going back in time to discover 'Maafa' with our 'driver' for the theme History. This project teaches children about Africa past and present, with a particular focus on Benin. It traces the development of the slave trade and explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora.

Our **Science** learning will concentrate on the Circulatory System, focusing on transport role of the human circulatory system, its main parts and primary functions. We will learn about healthy lifestyle choices and the effects of harmful substances on the body. As part of our **Computing** learning sessions we will be focusing on learning how to navigate the internet in an informed, safe and respectful way.

In language development our **French** sessions will be focusing on developing vocabulary about Sport and the Olympics with our final outcome to be writing an article in French, using a writing frame, about an imaginary Olympic Games.

In **PSHEE**, our learning will be supporting our computing unit with a focus of communicating respectfully and safely online. Our **BRAVE** learning will be focused on Buddhism and answering the question, 'How does the Triple Refuge help Buddhists in their journey through life?'

In **English** we will be reading 'Freedom' by Catherine Johnson which supports our themed learning by telling the story of a slave boy Nat, shipped to England from a Jamaican plantation in 1783. Later in the term, our writing will be linked with our theme and the book, but to begin with we will be focusing on the Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar where we will be going back to basics and learning and building on our knowledge of this area.

In **Maths** we will be looking at Place Value and written methods this half term. This will include numbers up to and beyond a million, comparing numbers and negative numbers. The children will be concentrating on written methods with these numbers using the four operations.

Our **Music** learning is all about film music where we will be evaluating different pieces of music describing how music evokes different emotions and identifying pitch, tempo and dynamics, and use these to explain and justify our answers. We will end by composing our own piece of music.

During the year, if you have any concerns or worries about your child at school, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can assist. Our primary (and easiest) form of communication is via Class Dojo, through which we will aim to respond within 24 hours. However, if you need to speak in person the best time to talk to us is after school (unless it is urgent) as we are busy settling the children and beginning our learning in the morning.

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation and we look forward to sharing all the exciting experiences we have in store with you.

Many thanks,

Mrs Wiffen and Mrs Harding 😊