



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ashfield Road

Midhurst

West Sussex

GU29 9JX

Tel: 01730 813526 Fax: 01730 817233

e-mail: office@midhurst-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk

website: www.midhurst-primary-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Barnes

January, 2011

Dear parents/guardians,

A rather belated Happy New Year to you all - Christmas seems an age away now. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday and spending time with your children!

Mrs. Willing is hoping to be back in school towards the end of term. Until then I'm still here and thoroughly enjoying teaching your lovely children!

We are finding out about the Anglo-Saxons this term; the children are very excited by the ideas of battles and invasions! This is a history-based topic which provides brilliant opportunities to develop literacy skills as well as other areas of the curriculum.

Here is a brief outline of what we hope to cover during this Spring term:

History - We will be finding out about the life, society, beliefs, art and skills of the Anglo-Saxons, all of which will lead to a greater understanding of how and where we live today.

Geography - The children will be learning about the characteristics and needs of settlers and settlements and identifying them in the local area.

Science - The focus this half term is forces. Later the class will be looking at ways of controlling and using electricity.

ICT - This term will see the children continuing to develop and practice their keyboard skills and to make use of the internet for research, supporting and extending their work in all areas of the curriculum

RE/PSHE - Is closely linked to the Anglo-Saxon work, we will be finding out about the spread of Christianity particularly in West Sussex. We will also continue to build on the theme of co-operation and friend-ship.

PE & Games - Gym sessions are on Tuesday and Games (B&HA) on Thursday as usual. Please make sure your child has their kit in school for these days. The games lessons are generally held outside so your child needs plimsolls (and socks if girls are wearing tights). At this time of year they may wear tracksuit-type trousers if you feel they need to, although they will soon warm up with the activities. Can I remind you that ear-rings should ideally be removed for these sessions or at least covered with tape.

Art & DT - The children will be working with clay, making pots and transferring decorative patterns. They will be weaving their own fabric (on a very small scale!) to their own design, which they will then make into something useful!

Literacy and Maths continue on a daily basis. Literacy is closely linked to our topic work which provides endless opportunities to develop research and creative writing skills. There are regular guided reading sessions in class which provide an invaluable opportunity to develop and extend reading skills. It is really important for children to read regularly to an adult and I am so grateful for your support in this. Please continue to record reading sessions in the red log book.

Homework Thank you to all of you who supported your child with homework last term. In Year 4 we expect the children to complete the following homework tasks all of which are much more fun if they are done with your help!

- Read regularly to an adult at home.
- Learn their lists of spellings (tests are every Monday)
- Learn their x tables (tests are every Thursday)
- An additional task, set weekly by the class teacher.

This is the term of THE PERSONAL PROJECT. Please don't panic about this. I intend to do it differently this term and will send out more information at half term. Briefly, the week beginning March 28th will be our 'Personal Project Week', during which each child will work independently on their chosen topic. The project needs to be self-contained and it can be presented in whatever format they choose. I will talk to the children nearer the time about planning and presentation - and you will be kept in the picture. Although the plan is that most of the work will be completed in school during the week, there will be opportunities for you to be involved as well. The only stipulations are that the subject should be different from their previous project, they must be *really* interested by their choice and they should be able to support their project with plenty of suitable material and masses of personal input! So for now, your child can be thinking about what they would like to work on, collecting information, ideas, pictures etc.

Please do not hesitate to come in and see me at any time if you have any concerns or worries regarding your children and school. I am available every morning except Monday, and every afternoon except Tuesday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Lovett