



# Welcome to Helvellyn Class 2022/23

Dear parents and Helvellyn children,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are looking forward to the start of the new academic year in just over a week's time. The classroom has had a makeover with a new coat of paint and a new floor, you can hardly recognise it! I am excited to see you all and get started on another busy school year.

Below can be found the curriculum information for this Autumn term, which gives a brief outline of what we will be learning up until Christmas. There is also some general class information regarding homework, outdoor education and important dates too.

Starting in a new class or new year group can be an anxious time. If anyone is worried about returning to school please do not hesitate to get in touch at [agorst@shap.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:agorst@shap.cumbria.sch.uk) and we can arrange a time to talk through any worries or issues before school starts.

I am looking forward to welcoming you all back on **Wednesday 7th September**.

Kind regards,  
Miss Abbie Gorst



# Autumn Term Curriculum 2022/23

## Maths

This term in maths we will be focusing on: place value, using the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and we will be looking at fractions in the run up to Christmas.

Monday's maths lessons will focus on learning, improving and applying mental calculation strategies. We will then continue to practise that skill throughout the week.

In each lesson we will be concentrating on problem solving and reasoning and expecting children to use the correct vocabulary to explain their thinking and answers.

Below is some of the content we will be covering.

**Place value:** Using numbers to 1,000,000 and 10,000,000, partitioning numbers, Roman numerals up to 1000 (M), negative numbers, powers of 10, rounding, decimal numbers

**Four Operations:** short and long division written methods, written methods for multiplication including 2-digit x 2-digit numbers, multiples, factors, cubed and squared numbers, prime numbers, multiplication, division, addition and subtraction with decimals

**Fractions:** Calculating with fractions, converting fractions, equivalent fractions, finding fractions of amounts

## English

This term in English we will be reading and exploring a range of different text types to inform our writing.

Through the different text types we will be learning and improving a range of word, sentence and text level grammar and punctuation as well as gaining confidence in using the correct grammatical terminology.

**Beowulf** by **Michael Morpurgo**

This Anglo Saxon tale will be used to improve character descriptions and extend narratives. We will look at direct and reported speech and improve our speech punctuation.

**Wing**

This is a short video clip that we will use to develop diary entries in the role of a character. We will learn how to write in a particular style to create an alternative ending and use the clip to create our own poetry.

We will also be completing non-chronological reports on different aspects of Viking and Anglo Saxon life.

Each child will also have a group guided reading session on a Friday with Mrs Turner. In class we will make time each day to listen to the class book, exploring a range of classic children's literature and discovering new authors.



## Science

Our topic for the first half term is **Living Things and their Habitats - The Art of Living**.

In this topic we will be learning about the life cycles of different plants and animals. We will conduct experiments to find out how plants reproduce without pollination. We will look at the similarities and differences between insect, mammal, amphibian, bird and reptile life cycles. We will also look at famous naturalists and their contribution to modern scientific discoveries.

In the second half term we will be learning about **Earth and Space - Space Presenters**.

In this topic we will learning about the moon and its gravitational effect on our own planet. We will look at Earth's place in the solar system and how it moves around the sun and the effects we see. We will be looking at different measurements to understand the vastness of our galaxy.

## RE

We will begin our RE learning by returning to look at **Judaism** and the question: *What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God?* We will look at a range of different Jewish practices and how they worship God. We will then interrogate these different practices to see how they contribute to a Jewish person's commitment to God. We will then move back to Christianity and our topic will be **Incarnation**, *Was Jesus the Messiah?* We will explore different books of the Bible to find out what 'messiah' means and find examples that show Jesus saved people.

## History

Our history topic this term will be looking at the invasion of Britain by the **Anglo Saxons and Vikings** and their impact on life in Britain before 1066. Our key question is: ***Were the Dark Ages really dark?*** We will build on our Roman learning in Year 3/4 and compare the Anglo Saxon's motives for invasion with that of the Romans. We will look at the advent of Christianity, architecture and literature that came with the Anglo Saxons. We will move on to discover the tensions between the Vikings and Angles and the impact the Vikings had on our own local history by looking at the etymology of place names around Shap. Throughout our work we will be developing enquiry, interpretation and communication skills.



## Geography

This term we will interleave our history and geography work. One week we will have a history focus and the next we will learn geography. To link into our Anglo Saxon and Viking work we will look at the area of their origin, **Scandinavia**. We will use maps to identify the countries of Scandinavia, investigate the human and physical geography of the countries and compare it to an area in the UK. We will also look at the climate crisis in the area and the effect it is having on polar bears.

## Art

In art we will be exploring the technique of **intaglio** and **collagraph** printing. We will use string and other media to create motifs on card to print. We will begin by using Anglo Saxon and Viking patterns before creating our own intricate line patterns to print.

We will also be using drawing skills to create a large piece of Viking art and using it to develop **abstract** representations. We will then go on to look at the work of the famous abstract artist Picasso.

## French

This term we will be learning about different places, directions and writing our journey to school in French. We will try to expand on this by using descriptive adjectives. We will also learn about celebrations, foods and how to express whether we like or dislike something in order to create our own celebration. We will continue to practise speaking and having short conversations in French.

## PE

In PE this term we will be preparing for the Ball Sports festival in October. We will be practising different invasion ball games such as tag rugby and football. We will look at the skills needed to be successful in these games as well as attacking and defending tactics. We will also be starting off the year working on general fitness and completing and designing our own aerobics circuits and thinking about working all muscle groups.



## Computing

This term we will be looking at **web page creation**. Children will identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process we will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths. After half term we will be **programming**. We will learn how the If... Then... Else structure can be used to select different outcomes to design a quiz in Scratch.

## PSHE

This term in PSHE, we will be learning about physical health and first aid, including:

- how to recognise early signs of physical illness
- safe and unsafe exposure to the sun
- the importance of sleep
- dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene
- personal hygiene and germs
- the facts and science relating to vaccinations

All children will also have a first aid session with Action Ants.

## Music

Year 5 children will learn to play the recorder on a Thursday afternoon, whilst Year 6s have their 'Buddy' afternoon with Catbells. Children will learn the basic notes, how to read musical notation as well as playing as part of a group. Once the Year 6s return, we will consolidate their skills and begin to learn some more advanced notes and rhythms to create class compositions. Mrs Mephram will also be delivering music and movement sessions fortnightly and these will be based on the Charanga music scheme.

Each week we will be listening and appraising different musical genres and famous artist, composers and songs from the genre so children can gain a good depth of knowledge and develop their musical tastes.

## **Helvellyn Class Staff**

### Miss Gorst

I will be your class teacher every day, apart from Friday mornings when I have my Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time.

### Shannon Crisp

Shannon is our wonderful teaching assistant and will be in our class every day to support you in your learning. She will be working with groups of you and sometimes will work with you 1:1 to help you in your learning.

### Mrs Mepham

Mrs Mepham will be supporting groups of learners on Thursday mornings. These groups will change termly. She will also be in class every other Tuesday when the class will split. Half the class will complete outdoor education with Gary and half will stay with Mrs Mepham to do music and movement. Mrs Mepham will also be in class on a Friday morning when Miss Gorst has PPA time.

### Mrs Turner

Mrs Turner will be in class on a Friday morning to deliver guided reading.

### Mr Gary Fitzgerald

Gary will be in alternate Tuesdays to deliver outdoor education.

## **Start of the Day Procedures**

You may drop your child off on school yard between 08:30 and 08:45 each day. Children will be supervised by Mrs Chappell (or another member of teaching staff in her absence) and another member of staff.

Helvellyn children will collect their belongings and go into school through the side door near Blencathra classroom when the whistle is blown.

Any child arriving after 08:45 must go to the school office and will be marked as late in the register.

## **Break Times**

On Mondays and Fridays, Helvellyn class will have their break at 10:30. Tuesday to Thursday our break time will be 10:50.

Children should bring in a healthy snack to eat at break time.

## **End of the Day Procedures**

Children will be let out of school at 3:15 and can be collected at the wooden door by Helvellyn classroom.

If you wish for your child to walk home by themselves after school, please send me an email or written note of consent. If your child walked home by themselves last year, please send a new note of consent for this upcoming school year. Thank you.

## **Reading Books**

In Year 5 and 6, children independently change and choose their own reading books.

Children are given time at the start of each day (8:45-9:00) to change their books.

Miss Gorst or Shannon checks the GoRead app on a Friday morning and prepare the reading raffle tickets.

- Reading 3x a week = 1 ticket
- Reading 4x a week = 2 tickets
- Reading 5+x a week = 3 tickets

The minimum expectation is that all children read 3x a week at home to a family member or friend.

## **Stationery**

Children do not need to bring in a pencil case. Children will be provided with their own pencil case and all essential stationery necessary for their learning.

## **What Do I Need to Bring to School?**

- Coat - Children should have a named coat, preferably waterproof, in school every day
- Packed lunch - Unless you have ordered a school dinner which can be done via the Lunchshop app.
- Water bottle - filled with water only!
- Healthy snack - for break times



## **Outdoor Education**

Each fortnight Helvellyn class will have their outdoor education session with our specialist Gary Fitzgerald. Gary plans exciting and meaningful sessions for the children and they are often a highlight of the children's year. We go out whatever the weather so children will need to make sure they have the correct kit:

- waterproof trousers
- waterproof coat
- wellies or waterproof outdoor boots
- in cold weather: wooly hat, gloves

Helvellyn outdoor sessions take place every other Tuesday. Our first session will be on **Tuesday 20th September**.

## **PE**

Helvellyn will have their PE sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sometimes we need to be flexible and change the days we do PE so children will need their PE kit in school all week.

### PE Kit List

- Maroon shorts
- White t-shirt or polo shirt either with or without the school logo
- Maroon hoodie or fleece with or without the school logo
- Maroon jogging bottoms or leggings for outdoor PE lessons in cold weather
- A pair of trainers which the children can fasten independently

**ALL jewellery must be removed** - children need to be able to remove their own earrings. They may want to bring a small pot to keep their earrings safe.

## **Homework**

Homework will be set each week on a Friday via a TEAMS assignment and is expected in the following Thursday. Homework each week will consist of: basic maths and grammar activities to consolidate class learning and either a maths or English piece of work that will feed into the next week's learning.

This year children will be receiving a homework book to complete their homework in. Once they have read the assignment on TEAMS, they will have to complete the different tasks in their book. This resembles the method UCC and QEGs use to deliver much of their homework and so provides a good transition step for our children.

There will also be a termly topic focused homework where children can be creative and demonstrate or explore their interests in other subjects.

Children will be rewarded for handing in their homework on time by moving up the traffic lights. They will also be given team points for the quality and care they give to each piece of homework. Topic homeworks are rewarded by team points and a headteacher's chocolate smile from Mrs Chappell who loves to see and share the children's creations.

It is my expectation that homework should be completed as independently as possible by the children. If they are struggling to complete a certain question then I am happy to help them on TEAMS or in class. However, children will need to be supported by parents in being given adequate space and time to complete the work. If children consistently fail to complete homework then an initial letter will be sent home to parents. If homework continues to be missed I will be contacting parents directly to discuss how we can support your child with their homework.

**Homework will start on Friday 16th September.**