



# BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Belong Believe Achieve**

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11 September 2020

**Year 5 and 6 Term 1 & 2 Project:  
A Stone Age Quest: How Have We Survived?**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term. Can you believe your child has finally reached Year 6...how time flies! It seems like yesterday since I had most of them as Year 2s. It is lovely to see how they have progressed and matured into such lovely young people. Both Mrs Jenkinson (our class teaching assistant) and I are looking forward to getting to know each and every class member so that we are able to plan the learning accordingly and to prepare them for the next chapter, beyond Primary School. I would like to say an extra special welcome to Emilia, who has just moved into Banwell and joined the class. I am very pleased to say that the children have started the new term full of enthusiasm and are rising to the challenge of being excellent role models for our younger pupils and we will be striving to maintain this throughout our very busy year.

Please find attached an overview of the learning planned for Terms 1 and 2 within our project: 'A Stone Age Quest: How Have We Survived? We have a series of questions that we will be answering as the project unfolds which include: How do we know what life was like in Prehistoric times? What did it mean to be a hunter gatherer in the Stone Age? What can we learn about survival from wolves? Why were rivers important to Stone Age survival? Can we unravel the mystery of Stonehenge? The Iron Age: How have things changed since the Stone Age? The children will also have opportunities to add their own ideas and questions to extend the project further. This will be a very interactive and practical project as we make the most of our local environment in learning how Stone Age hunter-gatherers survived and undertaking river studies. To extend our learning further we will be reading Wolf Brother by Michele Paver which is set 6,000 years ago in Mesolithic times where Torak, the main character, is sent on a quest to find the mountain of the World Spirit. It is a wonderful book which I am sure the children will love as much as I do!

We have several trips planned: We will be walking up through the wood to visit Banwell Bone Cave to examine the bones of animals from 70,000 years ago which will be amazing! We also plan to visit Mendip Activity Centre to do bushcraft activities such as: archery, wood carving and fire-lighting. Later in the term, we will walk to Crook Peak which is always lots of fun.

We will end our project with a Clan Meet – a showcase of our learning which will be shared with parents in December, around the camp fire. We will let you know the date for this, nearer the time. If there are any parents or members of the community who have any skills that they could share with us to help our understanding of Stone Age life, we would very much appreciate your input. During these tricky times, it would of course have to be via Zoom, email or telephone.

We will be continuing to work hard to go 'above and beyond' in achieving our very best in our learning and the children are expected to have super focus in all lessons.



## WELL-BEING

We will be continuing to do a variety of activities to promote the well-being of the children, especially as they have been away from the school routines for some time. We understand that some children may feel anxious returning to school, about being in Year 6 or any other events that may have affected them since they have been off school. We will support the children as much as possible to help them settle back in to school life.

## HOMEWORK

We are currently considering the best approach for homework which works well for the children and fits in with the government Covid guidelines. We will let you know shortly how this will work. Meanwhile, please encourage your child to read at home and learn their times tables. We cannot stress enough the importance of learning times tables!

## P.E.

For the coming term, P.E. will be on a Wednesday. The children should wear their P.E. kit to school; they do not need to bring their school uniform with them as they will not be changing. The P.E. kit is a white or house-coloured t-shirt, shorts or dark coloured tracksuit bottoms and trainers/daps.

## BEHAVIOUR

As the children are now at the top of the school, we have incredibly high expectations of behaviour. This includes being respectful at all times, being safe, and consistently being ready to learn. We work very hard as a team to develop excellent relationships with our students and to challenge them to produce their best work. When the children are exceeding these expectations they will have WOW cards, an email / phone call and a Gold Card to celebrate their achievements.

Mrs Jenkinson and I are very excited about this new class as we can already see the great potential in each and every one of them. I sincerely hope they have enjoyed coming back to school after such a long time away and are ready for the new and exciting challenges that Year 6 brings.

If you have any questions about anything in this letter or about Year 6 in general, please email me: [sam.nicholson@banwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:sam.nicholson@banwellprimary.co.uk) or telephone the school and I will contact you.

Kind regards

Sam Nicholson & Michele Jenkinson

