



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve

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**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. We are so proud of the way that the children have settled back into school after such a long time and they have come back with a brilliant learning attitude and seem very chilled and relaxed and pleased to be in school. They have all risen to the challenge of settling back into work and they have all been motivated to do their very best. We had a great trip to the Bone Cave today and they were all brilliantly behaved and I would like to thank the mums who came along with us. I have been wowed by some of the great progress that many of the children have made at home.

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 we do!

We have several trips planned making the most of the local area: In addition to the Bone Cave we also plan to visit Mendip Activity Centre to do survival skills/bush-craft activities such as: archery, wood carving and fire-lighting. Later in the term, we will be doing some geographical field studies at Banwell River and hope to walk from Crook Peak back to school.

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. They will be rewarded with Wow Cards, Shining Star awards and Core Value cards and e mails home.

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, We will support the children as much as possible to help them settle back in to school life. Please let us know by e-mail if your child has any worries of any kind so we can support them.

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. They have brought home a reading book that they have chosen that needs to be kept at home and brought back with their reading record when finished. We will quarantine these books and the children can then choose another book. If you are not happy with the book they have chosen please let us know. They will also have a challenging text that will stay in school that will be read throughout the week. We also cannot stress enough the importance of learning times tables!

Please do not hesitate to drop us an e mail to help communication as this really helps.

Best wishes

Carol Gould, Andrew Venn and Tracey Rac