

Year 6 Autumn Term

English

As writers, we will be exploring a range of texts throughout this term; newspaper report writing, emotive poetry for Remembrance Day, a diary entry by an evacuee, a letter home during World War II and biographical writing about distinguished historical figures.

The art of newspaper report writing will furnish the children with a wealth of skills that will allow them to create engaging articles in the style expected, whilst also focusing on handwriting, presentation, grammar and composition. Emotive poetry writing will further develop their understanding of figurative language devices such as personification and metaphor, as well as enhancing their engagement with this term's History topic, World War II. Our focus on biographical writing towards the end of term will utilise the children's Computing and Writing skills, as they will be researching, designing and developing a webpage in which to display their work about a key historical figure.

Year 6 will also take part in Whole Class Guided Reading sessions throughout this term based on their class novel, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio or *The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen. We will be focusing on developing the children's reading skills, coaching them to provide reasoned justifications for their views and encouraging them to identify evidence during class discussions.

Maths

This term, Year 6 will focus on Place Value in numbers up to 10 million as well as revising their understanding of the four operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will then further develop the children's knowledge of Fractions and end the term with the study of Position and Direction in Geometry.

Reasoning, problem solving and accuracy in mental maths are key skills that we are aiming to develop this term. We will also be encouraging the children to utilise the maths 'talk' skills taught to aid them in explaining their mathematical thinking and demonstrate greater depth when working.

Science

Our first topic this year will be a study of the Circulatory System. The children will be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the various parts of the Circulatory system and their functions, whilst gaining an understanding of how blood and essential nutrients are transported around the human body. They will also be able to investigate the positive impact of diet and exercise, as well as learn about the negative effects of substances such as alcohol, drugs and tobacco on the human body. During the latter part of this term, the children will study the classification of living things. The children will learn how to describe how living things are classified into broad groups such as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish etc. according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences. They will also develop their investigative skills by studying the variety of living things that live in their local habitat.

Topic

As Historians, we will be learning about World War II throughout this term. We will explore the causes of the outbreak of the war, discuss various key events in the early years (The Blitz, Operation Dynamo and the Battle of Britain) and research key leaders. The children will also have the opportunity to investigate the impact of rationing and evacuation on British society, the role of women and the influence of government propaganda. They will be challenged to investigate bias and form their own opinions based on a variety of historical sources.

As Geographers, we will be working on our map skills to gain an understanding of and be able to use grid referencing and the various symbols used to navigate an Ordnance Survey map.

Year 6 Spring Term

English

As writers, we will be exploring a range of texts throughout this term; balanced argument writing, a comparative essay, creating a play script and a flashback narrative. The art of balanced argument writing will furnish the children with an understanding of debate, the ability to reason, and the opportunity to formulate their own opinions, whilst using the higher level, formal language of discussion. This will also allow for a focus on improving handwriting, presentation, grammar and composition.

Our comparative study writing will further develop the children's understanding of comparison and presenting contrasting information formally.

The Playscripts will further develop their writing skills and pupils will be given the opportunity to develop multiple plot lines and understand structure within scenes, sequences and acts.

Flashbacks are a plot device that writers use to insert past events in order to provide context to the current events of a narrative, and to allow their readers to gain insight into a character's motivations. Towards the end of this term, Year 6 will be submerged in a depth of descriptive writing to create their own pieces in the style of an author, the focus staying on their grammar and composition, as well as their handwriting and presentation,

Year 6 will also take part in Whole Class Guided Reading sessions throughout this term based on their class novel, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio or *The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen. We will be focusing on developing the children's reading skills, coaching them to provide reasoned justifications for their views and encouraging them to identify evidence during class discussions.

Maths

This term, Year 6 will focus on calculating Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. Starting with a focus of using the four operations in the context of fractions, we will then further develop the children's knowledge of equivalent decimals and percentages. The children will also continue to work on their number skills while adding to their knowledge of position and direction, shape and measure. Converting measurements, from metric to imperial and between units of measure, will shortly be followed by a study of Area, Perimeter and Volume in the second half of this term.

Reasoning, problem solving and accuracy in mental maths are key skills that we are aiming to develop this term. We will also be encouraging the children to utilise the maths 'talk' skills taught to aid them in explaining their mathematical thinking and demonstrate greater depth when working.

Science

Our first topic this new year will build on from the Year 4 Electricity unit. Year 6 will investigate two important pioneers in the field of electricity - Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla - before learning how to represent circuits in diagrams using symbols.

Furthermore, the children will have the opportunity to learn how electricity is measured and how to conduct a 'fair' investigation.

During the latter part of this term, the children will study Light. They will be learning about how light travels and thus enables us to see. The children will have the opportunity to make a functioning periscope, finding out about mirrors and the angles of reflection and incidence. They will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate refraction, carrying out some fascinating experiments into the effects of bending light. The children

will also practically explore how light creates the colours we see, through the design of coded messages. Finally, they will learn about Isaac Newton and his theory of light and colour.

Topic

As Historians, Year 6 will be learning about the lives of significant individuals throughout history who have contributed to national and international achievement: Rosa Parks, Emily Davison, Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. The children will compare aspects of life in the various periods that these pioneers lived in with the aim of creating balanced arguments answering the following questions: Who was the greatest explorer? Who was the greatest female contributor to society? Later this term, they will also have the opportunity to study and evaluate an area of British history beyond 1066 - the Industrial Revolution and its impact on modern-day Britain.

As Geographers, the children will be working on their map skills to gain an understanding of (and be able to use) grid referencing, as well as the various symbols used to navigate an Ordnance Survey map. Their main project this term will be a comparative study of a region of the UK, with a region in Europe (Spain) and in North America (Canada). The children will reference physical (climate, time zone, rivers, mountains etc.) and human (economy, trade links, resources, housing) geography throughout their study.

Year 6 Summer Term

English

Throughout the Summer term, the children will be exploring a range of genres when writing, including: explanation texts, scientific reports and narrative myths and legends. (This final piece will be linked to their topic 'The Maya Civilisation' and the creation of the world in the Maya legend of the Hero Twins.) Year 6 will be submerged in a depth of skills with the aim of creating their own pieces of writing in the style of an author, whilst also focusing on improving their handwriting, presentation, grammar and composition skills.

Whole-class Guided Reading sessions will continue to focus on developing the children's deduction and inference skills, as well as coaching them to provide reasoned justifications for their views supported by evidence from the text.

Maths

This term, Year 6 will continue to work on their number skills while exploring shape and angle work in Geometry. The children will also be extending their knowledge of Statistics by creating line and pie charts, as well as calculating averages, including the mean. They will also be introduced to Algebra - a new area of Maths - in preparation for Year 7.

Reasoning, problem solving and accuracy in mental maths are key skills that we are continuing to develop this term. As always, we will be encouraging the children to utilise the maths 'talk' skills and variety of strategies for problem solving taught to aid them in explaining their mathematical thinking and demonstrate greater depth when working.

Science

This term's topic will build on Year 6's previous learning in Science; begun in Year 3 with 'Rocks' and nurtured through 'Animals including Humans' and 'Living Things and their Habitats' topics throughout KS2. As the culmination of all of these, our 'Evolution and Inheritance' unit requires the children to have a thorough understanding of fossils, habitats and human development in order to grasp the concepts and ideas presented to them in these lessons. The children will learn about variation and the adaptation of the human species, whilst also exploring the separate theories of evolution developed by Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace. They will also examine and consider the scientific evidence gathered from plants and animals that has informed the Theory of Evolution to form their own opinions.

Topic

As Historians, Year 6 will be learning about the Maya Civilisation. A colourful, exciting subject, the children will learn about who the ancient Maya were, as well as where, when and how they lived. Using maps and atlases, the children will identify countries in Mesoamerica and locate Maya cities in relation to this. They will also learn about the religious beliefs, rituals and many deities worshipped by the Maya.

Year 6 will also explore Maya culture, investigating: architecture, the Maya calendar, music and the types of food that were eaten. The opportunity to argue about the significance of corn and chocolate - ultimately deciding which was more important - will take place within a class debate. Finally, the children will learn to write like the Maya using their complicated series of glyphs and solve mathematical problems using their unique number system.

As Geographers, the children will continue developing their mapping skills whilst learning about Biomes. They will explore what a biome is, the climate zones they can be found in, compare and contrast features of various biomes and recognise the human impact on biomes around the world.