

Year 6

Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of Term 1:
Friday 22nd October

Start of Term 2:
Monday 1st November

Parent Conferences:
Thursday 2nd and
Tuesday 7th December

English & Grammar

This term in English, the class will be reading *The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff. This is a fictional story based on a real mystery: the disappearance of the Ninth Legion, also called the Hispana. It was stationed in Britannia but, after AD 130, it simply disappears from our historical records. Historians disagree about why, but one theory is that it was destroyed by an army of northern and Scottish tribes. This is the view that Rosemary Sutcliff takes: in her novel, the protagonist, Marcus, is the son of a centurion in the Ninth Legion. In the mid-2nd century AD, he sets out on a mission to discover the fate of his father and the legion, and to retrieve the legion's missing golden eagle. As well as reading the novel and exploring the ambitious vocabulary it contains, children will explore how authors create suspense, and will write their own stories which aim to create tension and fear in their readers. This will give them the opportunity to practise using techniques such as similes, metaphors, direct speech and ellipsis.

This term in Grammar, the class will be reviewing the rules for punctuating direct speech, including how to write a dialogue between two or more speakers. They will learn how to use the subjunctive, how to write in both the active and passive voice and how to enrich their sentences with parenthetical information. In their daily English language homework, they will continue to consolidate knowledge such as how to distinguish between the four types of sentence, and how to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Ancient History

This year, children continue their study of Ancient Rome, the final great ancient civilisation, which lasted from 753 BC – AD 476. *During Term 1, children will focus on the Julio-Claudian dynasty of Roman emperors, and will compare Augustus, the first emperor, with successors such as Caligula and Nero. – Jo said to remove this.*

Key Vocabulary: power, reign, succession, empire, law, heir, empire, conquest

British History

This term, students will study the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. First, they will learn about how the Ancien Regime in France collapsed, out of which emerged one of history's most important figures: Napoleon. Following this, they will study Britain's role in the Napoleonic Wars, with a particular focus of the battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar.

Key Vocabulary: dictator, extravagant, respectively, hierarchy, lavish, fortress, abolish, tension

Science

The children will start the term by learning about atomic structure, focusing in particular on electrons. They will then learn about both static and current electricity. Over the course of the half-term, they will learn about voltage, current and resistance, and about how these are related in both series and parallel circuits. By carrying out their own experiments, children will develop their understanding of the important place of evidence in the scientific method, and they will understand how to carry out comparative and fair tests to answer scientific questions.

After half-term, the children will move on to study plant biology. We shall focus especially on photosynthesis and germination, helping children to use their existing knowledge to understand the importance of these processes and the factors that affect them. Again, there will be an emphasis on experimental work to allow children to work scientifically in increasingly rigorous and thoughtful ways, and to allow them to apply the knowledge they have learned to results from their and their class' investigations.

Geography

In Year 6, the children will be revising and expanding the geographical knowledge they learned last year, with a particular focus on developing their knowledge of important locations from across the world. We begin by learning more about maps, with a focus on the knowledge required to read OS maps, including grid references, symbols, scale and contour lines. Later, we learn about time zones and about the major lines of latitude and longitude before exploring some important topics in physical geography: rocks, mountains, glacial landforms, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Maths

In the autumn term, children will learn how to:

Place Value

- Read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000,000 and determine the value of each digit
- Round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy (e.g. to 10, 1000, 10,000 or million)

Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

- Add and subtract negative numbers
- Use their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)
- Solve multi-step reasoning problems in context, deciding which operations and methods to use and giving a reason for this choice
- Identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers
- Use estimating and approximating to check answers to calculations
- Multiply 4-digit numbers by 2-digit number using the formal written method (long multiplication)
- Divide 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using the short division method and by 2-digit numbers using the long division method

Fractions

- Use common factors to simplify fractions and use common multiples to find common denominators
- Add and subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers
- Compare and order fractions including mixed numbers
- Multiply pairs of proper fractions and divide fractions by whole numbers

Geometry: Position and Direction

- Describe position on the full coordinate grid, including negative numbers
- Draw, translate and reflect simple shapes on the coordinate grid

Key vocabulary: place value, millions, digits, numbers, partition, greater than, less than, ascending, descending, round, rounded to, multiple, regroup, exchange, factor, multiple, common factor, multiple, common denominator, numerator, proper fraction, improper fraction, mixed number, reflect, translate, quadrant, x-axis, y-axis, coordinates

Latin

The children begin their Latin studies in Year 6 by consolidating their knowledge of different sentence types in Latin, focusing on the methods Latin uses to turn a statement into a question. They will then study prepositions, both in English and in Latin. They will learn how Latin prepositions affect the case of the words they govern, and they will be taught how to identify Latin prepositions and preposition phrases.

Alongside this, children will also be learning a wide range of Latin vocabulary, and they will explore some of the English words that come from these Latin words. Their challenge is to use these new words in their creative writing in other subjects!

Art

Term one: Colour theory and abstract expressionism

Artists/images: Kandinsky, a selection, 1900s

Key words: abstract, expressive, emotional, bold, controversial, non-traditional

Term two: Ornamental portraiture

Artist/image: Gustav Klimt, Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer 1, 1907

Key words: classical, commission, confiscated, decorative, ornamental, patron

PSHE

During the first few weeks of term, as we welcomed children back to school, form teachers spent a considerable amount of time getting to know the children in their classes. As part of this, the children revised the school's rules and routines, and discussed how these rules will help them have a happy and successful year. They also explored the importance of respectful relationships and discussed the practical steps we can take in a range of contexts to improve and support them. The children also explored their own identity and considered what made them special and unique, helping them to appreciate the importance of self-respect.

Much of this autumn term will be devoted to learning about the media and social media. The children will learn what bias is and develop strategies for identifying 'fake news', both online and in other contexts. They will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social media, including the risks that its use brings. As part of this, children will explore the reasons why many social media sites and apps have age restrictions.

Towards the end of term, the children will start to think about life beyond school. They will learn about the range of different careers that people have, and discuss the importance of perseverance and commitment in preparing for them. One important idea that we shall discuss will be stereotyping and how stereotypes should not limit a person's goals or ambitions.

Over the course of the year, our PSHCE curriculum aims to help children learn to live as kind, tolerant members of our diverse community, and to give them an understanding of how to keep themselves safe and both physically and mentally healthy. Our teaching will be adapted to the needs of our children and will respond to issues and events in our community and in the wider world.

Religious Education

Over the course of this academic year, the children will study the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We begin the term by learning about the Bible and by reading some of its most significant narratives, including Creation; Adam and Eve, and the Fall; Noah's Ark and the Flood; and the testing of Abraham. As the children study them, they will be encouraged to understand the different ways in which they have been interpreted, focusing on the difference between literal and metaphorical interpretations.

Towards the end of term, we shall move on to begin studying Judaism. The children will learn Jews' major beliefs, including about God and the Messiah, and they will develop an understanding of how Jews differ in their beliefs and practices. This will set them up for a more detailed study of this faith in the spring term.

PE

This term, we will be doing basketball and fitness. Basketball will focus on passing, shooting and dribbling with a significant emphasis on teamwork and co-operation. In fitness we will be looking at different muscle groups and building stamina.

Music

This term, Year 6 will be consolidating and expanding their knowledge of how to read and to write music. They will learn to use subject-specific vocabulary, such as *stave*, *treble clef*, *forte*, *piano*, *time signature*, *bar line*, *double bar line*, *bar*, *rest*, *minim*, *quaver*, *pitch*, *dynamics*, *rhythm*, *pulse*, and *crotchet*; and they will relate these to other aspects of the music they hear and make. We shall be applying this knowledge as we explore Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*.

