

Year 6

Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of term 3 –
Friday 11th
February

Start of term 4 –
Monday 21st
February

Parent-Teacher Conferences –
Thursday 17th and Tuesday 22nd
March

Ancient History

Year 6 will begin the term by concluding their study of some significant figures from the period of the Roman Empire, including learning the remarkable story of the life of Zenobia, the queen of Palmyra in the third century AD. They will then go on to explore some topics in Roman culture, learning, for example, about Roman leisure, and the role that literature, gladiatorial games and architecture had in Roman society and politics.

English & Grammar

This term, the children will be reading Leon Garfield's retelling of Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare. Antony and Cleopatra, written in the early 17th century, is one of Shakespeare's 'historical' plays, although it can also be categorised as both romance and tragedy. It is based on the historical accounts of Greek and Roman historians such as Plutarch and is, chronologically, a sequel to Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. As a pair, the two plays detail the rocky and chaotic final years of the Roman Republic and the civil war before Octavius became the emperor and took the name Augustus. However, unlike Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra is not predominantly a political drama: whilst filled with treachery, betrayal, and war, its focus is a dramatised account of the romantic and, ultimately, tragic relationship between Antony and Cleopatra. It is a battle between two cultures, East and West, set in a turbulent political world of destructive civil war, vicious political ambition and fluctuating loyalty. It is also the devastating story of personal conflicts of duty and of love that is destined to fail.

British History

This term, Year 6, will study the Great Exhibition, which was opened in 1851 by Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. The Great Exhibition included displays of technology and art from Britain and around the world. Throughout the early nineteenth century, Britain was the first nation to undergo a process which historians call the Industrial Revolution. During this time, many people moved from rural to urban areas to work in newly built factories. Key figures include Sir Joseph Paxton who was the architect of the Crystal Palace.

Key vocabulary: industry, technology, steam engine, invention, British Empire, colony, philanthropist, legacy.

In term 4, Year 6 will study the process which shaped and defined the 'political nation' we see and know today. The shift in the composition of political representation in Britain was achieved through a long, gradual process of incremental change and reform. The Industrial Revolution led to mass movement from rural to urban areas as increasing numbers of people stopped working in agriculture and began working in factories. Furthermore, there was a rapid growth in regional and national newspapers due to the improved transportation, through the railways. The Great Reform Act of 1832 swept away many of the old assumptions about the representation of the political nation. Key figures include William Gladstone, Prime Minister of Great Britain and Ireland and leader of the Liberal Party. He was known as the 'Grand Old Man' of Victorian politics; supporter of free trade and individual liberty.

Key vocabulary: Prime Minister, Member of Parliament (MP), House of Commons, franchise, enfranchise, demographic, universal suffrage, suffragists, suffragettes.

Maths

In the spring term, the children will study:

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages

- Review factors, common factors, common multiples, square, cube and prime numbers
- 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
- Calculate fractions and percentages of amounts
- Convert fractions, decimals and percentages from one form to another

Algebra

- Express missing number problems algebraically
- Use simple formulae
- Generate and describe simple linear equations

Key vocabulary: factor, multiple, common factor/multiple, common denominator, numerator, proper/improper fraction, mixed number, per cent, tenths, hundredths, thousandths, decimal point, formulae, equation, expression, unknown, substitution.

Geography

In Year 6, the children will continue 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 with learning about different parts of a river (upper, middle and lower) and rivers of the world. Then, we will move onto climate and climate zones of the world and learn how to interpret climate graphs.

Science

During the first half of the spring term, the children will study biology. They will begin by learning about different body systems and how they work together. Later, they will learn about individual organs and organ systems including the nose, mouth and the skin.

In the second half of term, the children will continue studying biology, learning about the eyes, muscles and the components of blood.

Latin

Year 6 will extend their knowledge of Latin nouns, consolidating their understanding of how endings encode whether a noun is a subject or an object before learning about how Latin expresses number (singular and plural). They will then learn how whether a noun is singular or plural affects the form of the adjectives that describe it and the verbs in the sentence. They will use this knowledge to translate longer passages from Latin into English as well as to construct their own Latin sentences.

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!

PSHE

Year 6 will begin the term by continuing to learn about careers and understanding the role of education in preparing them for their futures. They will consider how 'big goals' can be achieved through 'little steps', and explore the role of resilience and perseverance in allowing them to achieve those 'big goals'. They will then go on to study the lives of people who have made significant contributions to, and perhaps even changed, the world. As they do this, they will discuss with their classes the character traits on which these figures relied.

Religious Education

We begin the term by continuing our study of Judaism, learning in particular about Shabbat and about Jewish beliefs about the Messiah. We then move on to study Christianity. Drawing on our knowledge of the Bible from the autumn term, we explore what Christians believe about God, and discover how Christians vary in their beliefs and practices.

Music

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of pitch, pulse and rhythm with exercises and games while also learning to sing songs of ABRSM Grade 6 difficulty. We will continue putting our music theory knowledge into practice as we compose our own rhythms and melodies. This term we will also be learning about some of the instruments of the orchestra and listening analytically to pieces of music written for orchestra.

Art

This term, the children will be developing their observational drawing skills and learning about the art form known as Chiaroscuro. They will be studying masterpieces by Da Vinci and Caravaggio to help them understand how the masters used this technique to make their paintings both dramatic and realistic.

Vocabulary: Chiaroscuro, contrast, definition, theatrical, realism.

Next half of term, the children will be learning about Pop Art by looking at a selection of work by Yayoi Kusama and Wayne Thiebaud. They will make their own mixed-media pop art image combining the skills of drawing, painting, printing, and collage.

Vocabulary: Pop art, Popular culture, Preparatory, Accuracy, Regimented, Ordered.

PE

This term, we will be introducing hockey. This will focus around hand-eye co-ordination, teamwork and communication. We will also be looking at the difference between attacking and defending.

