



Year 6 Curriculum Update Autumn Term 2023



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Themes

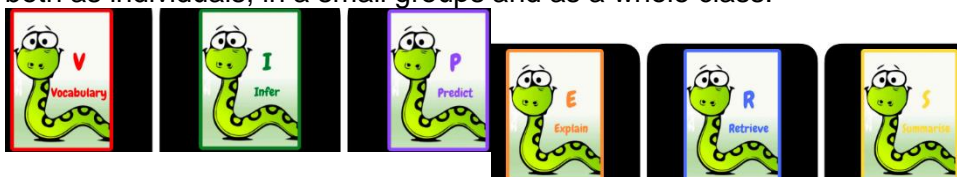
Our themes this term are 'Romans' and 'Natural Disasters'. As part of the Roman topic, the children will dress up and have a re-enactment from the point of view of Romans living in Britain when there was the Celtic uprising led by Boudicca. We will take this theme across into other subjects over the term. In addition, we will study natural disasters in the second-half of the term and look at the famous eruption of Vesuvius as well as Earth-shattering earthquakes and tsunamis.

English

The children will have daily English lessons as well as structured reading lessons. In addition to the reading within lessons, there is an expectation for children to be reading for pleasure in their free time and completing the Olympic Reading Challenges, culminating in the prestigious reading hoodie. Research has shown that if a child reads for 20mins a day throughout school, they will typically score in the top 10% of standardised tests. In addition, reading improves children's social skills, self-esteem and creativity. Year 6 children still love to have stories read to them or read to adults. In English writing lessons, the children will learn to punctuate accurately and use advanced punctuation. Children will write for different purposes, using the appropriate skills and language. In addition, they will be challenged to use advanced and precise vocabulary and edit and improve their work each time. Lessons will be linked together to build up to a piece of independent writing that demonstrates their understanding of sentence structures and organisational features fit for the purpose of the writing. This term children will be writing a diary entry linked to the class novel *Ghost*, a balanced argument on whether zoos have a place in our modern society, an information text looking at the Roman legacy, a news report of a natural disaster and a creative description linked to our other class novel. Poetry will be analysed, used as inspiration and performed each half term. Spellings following a particular spelling pattern will be given out each week on a Monday for learning by the weekend. As part of their homework, the expectation is for them to go on to Spelling Shed and practise those spellings. Children will be expected to use joined handwriting in all their subjects and this will be reinforced. The children will need to write in a black or blue pen which they will be asked to bring in themselves in their pencil cases. More information about how English is taught can be found in the curriculum section of the school website.

Guided reading and class novels

Ghost by Jason Reynolds and *Orphans of the Tide* by Struan Murray will be the two class novels for this term. The children will have four sessions of guided reading a week. Two days will be linked to these class novels and two will be based on a linked text. This could be linked to the term's theme or another subject that they are studying – this then expands their prior knowledge and supports their learning. The children will come across different question types and explore what effect authors try and create through their choice of language/punctuation. There will also be a focus on children finding evidence in the text to back up their answers. There will be opportunities to read aloud to the class, both as individuals, in a small groups and as a whole class.



Our question VIPERS

Mathematics

The children will have a daily maths lesson with a teacher from the Year 6 team. These groups will be arranged to best support each child individually. All groups will follow the same Year 6 maths curriculum. The focus for the Autumn term is primarily on developing the children's knowledge and understanding of place value in the tens of millions and the four written operations, branching out into new methods of division. In addition, equivalent fractions and using all four operations with fractions will also be revised and expanded upon. Each lesson includes practical learning, encouraging the children to develop a range of strategies to solve problems, application of these skills in different situations and a variety of problem solving. The expectation will be for all children to practise multiplication and division facts at home to ensure these are well consolidated so they can be accessed quickly in maths lessons. Times tables to x12 should be recalled automatically to support the maths learning this year. Roman numerals will also be retaught this year to link in with our overall theme. More information can be found by looking at our calculation policy on the school website.

Science

In science in the first half term, the children will have a block of lessons about 'Electricity'. This science block will support the STEM project which will start in the second half of the term. The children will read and draw circuit diagrams, using scientific symbols, and they will observe and explain the effects of differing voltage in a circuit. Science units always contain an investigation which the children plan, conduct and write up. In this unit, the focus will be on planning and the children will have the opportunity to plan their own scientific enquiries. After the half term, children will use this new knowledge to support the design of a programmable extreme-weather buggy, driven by gears or pulleys and including additional features such as lights and switches. STEM brings together science, computing, maths and D&T.

History/Geography

The children will begin by learning why the Romans wanted to invade Britain and how long it took them to be able to do that. They will also look at the vastness of the Roman Empire and theories as to why it came to an end after 400 years. Ultimately, the question which will need to be answered will focus on the Roman legacy. After half term, they will then move on to finding out about natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and earthquakes. Learning will centre around the movement of the tectonic plates and how instabilities in the Ring of Fire causes many of these disasters.

Design Technology & Art

The children will have a block of six lessons in art this term. During the first half term, art will be based on designing and making clay pots with appendages as per the Romans. They will learn about the life and work of Grayson Perry and create their own designs, gaining inspiration from the artist. During the second half term, focus will be on D&T and the large-scale STEM project discussed in the science section involving programming and building a buggy to send into a volcano/storm.

Music

The children will have a weekly music lesson in the first half term either with their class teacher or our specialist music teacher Mrs Brown. The focus for this term will be musical notation and rests so the children can describe the style indicators of a musical composition. They will then be able to play specific instruments accurately and finally compose a piece in small groups. They will be looking at Carole King's 'You've Got a Friend'.

PE

The children will have two PE lessons per week. These lessons will either be taught by our PE coach Mr Smith or by the class teacher. In the first half of the Autumn term the focus will be on football skills and in the second half of the term tag rugby. The children will also have a weekly lesson in the hall on fundamental skills when they don't have swimming. Swimming will take place on alternate Friday afternoons at Lord Butler. We always need volunteer parents please.

PSHE

In these weekly lessons the children will learn about new beginnings and belonging. They will also explore different strategies to deal with conflict resolution and peer mediation.

We will also regularly refer to the 'Zones of regulation' as a way of helping children explain how they are feeling.



French

The children will have a weekly French lesson taught by their class teacher or Mrs Kimber. They will revise and expand on greetings, numbers to 100, months and seasons, compass points, countries, colours and the weather. This term's learning will culminate with the children, in small groups, delivering a French weather forecast to the rest of their class. Towards the end of the Autumn term, they will also explore Christmas in France.

Religious Education

During these sessions, children will explore Buddhism and how they explain the suffering in the world. Children will also discuss the emotive subject of how religion as a whole can bring peace but also sometimes conflict.

Computing

Computing will form part of the STEM project where children will be using advanced programming and Crumbles to control their buggies. This will build on the programming skills they acquired in Year 5 and will help them understand the complex programming involved to ensure a machine makes precise movements.

Supporting your child's learning

We believe it is important to work as a team in year 6 and develop a strong home/school relationship to support your child's learning. Below are some areas we look for your support.

- Read with and to your child regularly (yes, even at year 6) – they also need to listen to good quality books being read to them as an opportunity to be exposed to advanced vocabulary and to enable them to hear the correct prosody and intonation. Please sign their reading record. Children are welcome to bring and share a book during our 'Fun Reading' sessions each week.
- Encourage your child to engage with the activities, and work towards, their Reading Olympic challenges in their spare time (details can be found in the back of their reading record)
- Children must regularly log into Spelling Shed and practise at least 10 games a week. Teachers will be monitoring this and providing opportunities in school if there are access issues.
- Ensure children have a calm place to complete maths homework and develop a routine.
- Practise times tables up to x12 using TT rockstars or 'Hit the Button'.
- Engage your children in discussions about topical issues in the world around them. There are specially produced newspapers for children as well as TV programmes such as 'Newsround', Blue Peter and documentaries.