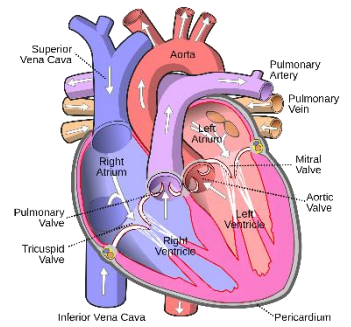




# Year 6 Curriculum Update Spring 2024



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## Theme

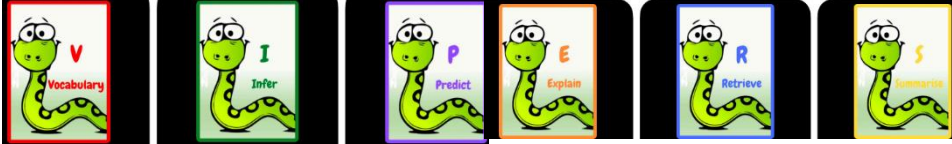
This Spring term is a busy one but filled with exciting projects! Our theme is Gruesome Deeds (which loosely covers all things that are a little bit scary!) Over this term we will look at how punishments have changed from medieval times to modern day and how the role of the police and prisons have grown. Children find this topic fascinating and always ask lots of questions. Please be reassured that all content is age appropriate. This theme enables us to also explore fantastical stories with terrifying creatures and our key texts are Jules Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and *Sky Song* by Abi Elphinstone. We will also be using sections from *Harry Potter* by JK Rowling. The children will enjoy a thrilling performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* where they will be introduced to a child-friendly version of this fantastical story which cleverly integrates Shakespearean language into the script.

## English

In English writing lessons, children have been learning how to add complexity to simple sentences and we will continue to expand on this, looking at the use of dashes and subordinate clauses. We will also consolidate direct speech, which the children have been working hard on in the Autumn term. This term, children will be writing a number of narrative pieces to entertain the reader. These will be linked to the novels we are reading and will have a fantasy and adventure theme. We will explore the wonderful *Jabberwocky* poem, with children writing their own stanzas about the battle with the fearful monster. Play scripts will also be looked at, linked to a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which will immerse the children in Shakespearean language as well as drawing them in via the passionate performances that the actors deliver. Spellings following a particular spelling pattern will be given out as usual each week on a Monday for learning by the weekend. As part of their homework, the expectation is to practise 10 games of spellings a week. If this is a problem, please let us know and laptops will be available for children to use in school. The expectation continues for children to use joined handwriting in all their subjects. They will need to write in a black or blue pen, which they need to bring in themselves. Getting into good habits with stationery is good preparation for next year. More information about how English is taught can be found in the curriculum section of the school website.

## Guided reading and class novels

*Journey to the Centre of the Earth* by Jules Verne and *Sky Song* by Abi Elphinstone will be the two class novels for this term. The children will continue to have four sessions of guided reading a week. Two days will be linked to these class novels and two will be based on a text linking to the theme or foundation subjects the children are covering. This helps to build prior knowledge and support their learning in those other subjects while also developing their comprehension skills. There will be opportunities to read aloud to the class, both as individuals, in small groups and as a whole class. In reading sessions, the children will be exploring texts in more depth, looking at questions about authors' intent and deep inference, whilst consolidating inference questions. Children will be learning to make a point and back it up with evidence from the text. We will also be building up the children's resilience when tackling longer pieces of text. As always, we would ask for your support in ensuring they are reading on a regular basis at home. We now have several Gold Reading Olympians and are encouraging children to finish their Bronze and Silver challenges as quickly as possible so they can complete the Gold challenges by the end of the year.



Our question VIPERS

### **Mathematics**

The children will continue to have a daily maths lesson with a teacher from the Year 6 team. These groups will be arranged to best support each child individually and are fluid. All groups will follow the same Year 6 maths curriculum. The focus for the Spring term is fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. Algebra will also be introduced for the first time and children always enjoy the problem-solving nature of the algebraic tasks. Children will continue working through their Going For Gold times table challenges and we hope to see most children achieving Gold this term. The daily practice of times tables will continue at the beginning of each lesson and children have their logins for Times Tables Rockstars for extra practise at home. If your child is having issues logging in, please let us know. More information can be found by looking at our calculation policy on the school website.

### **Science**

In our biology unit Animals Including Humans, the children will learn about the human circulatory system and healthy living. The first lessons will cover the function of blood, the heart and blood vessels. This will include making a model of blood, an opportunity to examine an animal heart and an investigation into the effect exercise has on heart rate. The children will also learn about the work of the famous scientist William Harvey and his discovery of the circulation of blood. In the second half of the unit, the children will research the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function and they will produce an informative leaflet, a selection of which will be made available in the office for visitors to the school.

### **History/Geography**

In History, we will be looking back at the process of crime and punishment from 1066 to now and how this changed across the centuries. We will explain how the police system began, how courts were set up and how punishments/sentences were decided. This will culminate in a debate on 'When was the best time to be a criminal?' This will provide another opportunity for children to practice their oracy skills and use their Rainbow of Talk words.

### **Design Technology & Art**

The children will have a block of both six lessons in DT and Art this term. The DT focus is on building strong structures and how important diagonals and triangulation is. We will look at the construction and purpose of different buildings and they will design their own small-scale prison for a medieval convict. They will be using saws and practising mitre and butt joints to create a strong frame. The art unit examines the unique multi-media style of Kurt Schwitters, which the children will use as inspiration for a group collage piece. In addition, they will learn several new weaving techniques and produce their own weave based on a fantastical theme.

### **Music**

The children will have a weekly music lesson in the first half term, either with their class teacher or Miss Cattley/Mrs Vincent. Our music unit this term will be Music and Me, in which the children will explore how music can be influenced by, and shape our identity. The children will listen and appraise music from artists whose background, culture and beliefs have influenced their music, such as Anna Meredith, Shiva Feshareki, Eska Mtungwazi and Afrodeutsche. They will then compose their own piece of music that reflects their identify, using percussion instruments and the program Quickbeats.

### **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 Spring term, the focus will be on tag rugby and gym. In the second half, it will be football and dance.

## **PSHE**

In these weekly lessons, the children will learn about family and friends (learning how to identify positive relationships and deal with conflict positively) and financial capability (learning about money, trade and currencies and how earning money can help support the community).

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

### The **ZONES** of Regulation®

			
<b>BLUE ZONE</b> Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	<b>GREEN ZONE</b> Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	<b>YELLOW ZONE</b> Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	<b>RED ZONE</b> Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

## **French**

The children will have a weekly French lesson taught by their class teacher or Mrs Kimber. They will learn geographical language, explore French speaking countries around the world and learn to describe themselves.

## **Religious Education**

In the first half of the term, children will look through the philosophy lens to compare humanist and Christian beliefs and examine the ideology of happiness. In the latter half,

they will explore how to think as a theologian, look at the creation theory and the cosmology theory (Big Bang) and discuss if these are conflicting or complementary.

## **Computing**

Computing will focus on the children designing and creating their own web page and using tabs to sort the information. This will be linked to science or history.

## **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 or encourage them to fill it in.
- 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 practise at least 10 spelling games on Spelling Shed a week.
- Practise times tables up to x12 using TT rockstars.
- Provide children with a calm place to complete maths homework and develop a routine.
- Ensure children have some switch-off time without digital devices to enable them to take a break from the busy world around them and just be children!