Year 5 & 6 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2025

Writing



In our writing lessons we will be using our World War 2 topic as inspiration. The first text we will be looking at is 'Gas Mask'. This will allow children to then write an action story. After this, children will focus on writing a discussion text linked to whether children should be evacuated or not.

Reading

For our whole class reading this term we are studying the book Holes by Louis Sachar. We will be having lots of discussions regarding the text as well as answering questions about it. It is a really entertaining book that focuses on a teenager called Stanley.



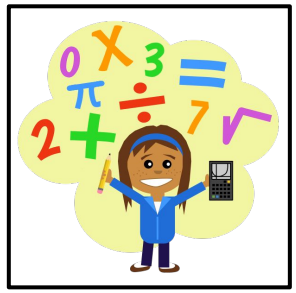
Message from your teachers

Welcome back - we hope you have had a wonderful summer. This newsletter provides you with some useful information about the areas that our Year 5 & 6 children will be covering this term. We are looking forward to an exciting year. If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher either via email or at the end of the school day. Many thanks.

Miss Booth, Mr Horsley, Mrs Raisin and Mr Walker

Maths

In maths this term, we will be focusing on place value and using the four main operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be using the White Rose Maths curriculum in daily maths lessons. As always, there will be lots of practise of times tables as knowing these is beneficial to all areas of the maths curriculum. We recommend that you continue this at home using TTR or just oral practice.



Computing

Within computing, we will be looking at how we use spreadsheets to help organise information. Children will look at how to store data on a spreadsheet as well as using different formulas to make reading data easier.





Home Learning

We expect children to be reading at home as much as possible, preferably a minimum of 3 times per week. This should be documented in their home reading journals. Children should also be practising their use of times tables regularly, as these underpin much of the KS2 maths curriculum. Alongside these two key skills, we will also set home learning which can be completed on Google Classroom. Useful links have also been provided on the GC for other websites and activities. Your child should soon be able to access their GC - please ask if you need any support with this.

Religious Education

In RE this half term we will be focusing on 'Justice and Freedom'. This is a philosophical unit, thinking about what freedom is, considering what it means to be 'fair', and thinking about forgiveness.

After half term we will be learning about Christmas - recapping the nativity story, and considering the perspective of different characters.



PE



This term in PE we will be looking at invasion sports and gymnastics.

In invasion sports we will be thinking about how to be successful in basketball. Children will learn different skills throughout the weeks.

Our indoor PE will be gymnastics. Children will be working in groups to develop their own routine.

Please note: any child with hair longer than chin length will need to tie up their hair for PE sessions and will need to remove earrings.

Science

During the first half term children will be learning about Forces and Mechanisms. We will be learning about forces such as gravity, air resistance, and friction, as well as thinking about how levers and pulley systems work.

In the second half term we will move on to the 'Properties of Materials' topic, thinking about dissolving, filtering, and learning about reversible and irreversible changes to materials.

All our science learning is based around careful observations, making predictions, and planning investigations to test these.



French

In French we will be learning about adjectives and opinions. Pupils will be able to describe in more detail how they are feeling, and describe themselves and their friends.

We will also be learning about how to ask for and give simple directions in French, and describe different buildings, including out homes.

We will be learning this through our new MFL scheme: Primary Languages Network.



History

Through our history unit we will be focusing on the World War II and the Battle Of Britain. We will be looking at how and where the war was fought, which countries were involved, how long it lasted, the contribution of the Home Front, the impact and significance of the Blitz and how we commemorate the war.



Art

We will be focusing on how landscape art has developed through history. Children will develop their use of shading techniques, including shadows, in a range of media and work on our own style in mixed media. They will develop their artistic vocabulary and critically review their own and each other's work.



Music

This term all the learning in this unit is focused around one song: 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams Children will discuss the pop music genre, as well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose using the song as a base.

Children will continue to access their peripatetic music lessons alongside this: piano, woodwind, drums, guitar and violin.



Learning in our theme - World War Two

Subject specific vocabulary	
Empire	A group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch
Dictator	Someone who has complete control over their government
Nazi	A person who has extreme far-right political views
Military	The military protects a country's land, sea, and airspace from foreign invasion
Politics	The work of government
Genocide	The killing of certain people because of race or beliefs.
Treaty	An agreement between two countries
Ration	People were only allowed to buy certain amounts/ items
Blitz	The heavy bombing of cities in the UK
Evacuate	Moving people away from an area where they are in danger to a safer area.
Holocaust	The killing of millions of Jews by the Nazis
Allies	Countries that fought together against the Nazis
Axis	Countries which fought the allies
Propaganda	Material that pushes a particular political point of view or agenda







Knowledge and Facts

- WWII began because of the rise of power and beliefs of Adolf Hitler and the invasion of Poland in 1939
- The Second World War lasted 6 years
- The two sides fighting the war were called the Axis powers and the Allies.
- In September 1940, German bombers began targeting key cities across Britain. This became known as the Blitz.
- Hull was an obvious target for air raids and was the most heavily bombed place outside of London.
- Propaganda was used to increase the morale of the people and to increase their belief in a victory
- Rationing and evacuation were introduced in Britain.

Reading Spine Books

