












Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers




Year 6

Autumn Term

This term we will be learning the following things. Here are some useful hints and tips for helping at home!

	Overview of Learning	Ideas for Learning at Home
 <p>English</p>	<p>During the first half term, Year 6 will revisit, recap and practise grammar skills, including: common, proper, collective and partitive nouns; verbs and verb phrases; finding the subject of a sentence; building single-clause sentences; co-ordinating conjunctions; compound and dummy subjects; gerunds.</p> <p>The first class novel this term will be <i>The Wolf Wilder</i> by Katherine Rundell – an exciting story set in Russia about a young girl forced to go on the run when her mother is arrested by the corrupt army. The children will use this novel to write their own diary entries and narrative dialogues.</p> <p>Following this, the class will read <i>Darwin's Dragons</i> by Lindsay Galvin. This thrilling adventure novel follows the story of Syms Covington (Mr Darwin's trusted assistant), who finds himself thrown overboard and washed up on an unexplored, volcanic island. This book will form the basis for the children writing a non-chronological report (in the form of an encyclopaedia page) and a narrative with a flashback.</p>	<p>Support your child to improve their reading fluency by encouraging them to read at home. Remember: eBooks, newspapers, comics, magazines, graphic novels etc. all count; it doesn't just have to be books from school. Ask them what they enjoy about texts they read independently and read/hear at school.</p>
 <p>Maths</p>	<p>Numbers up to 10,000,000: Composition of numbers up to 10,000,000; positioning numbers on a number line; counting forwards and backwards in powers of ten; representing and partitioning numbers; understanding the value of digits; comparing and ordering numbers; rounding numbers; column addition and subtraction.</p> <p>Order of Operations: Solving missing number equations; balancing equations; using order of operations within a variety of calculations.</p> <p>Multiplication: Converting large metric units to small; short and long multiplication practice; finding the most efficient method for multiplication.</p> <p>Division: Converting small metric units to large; short division and long division practice; finding the most efficient method for division.</p>	<p>Quick recall of multiplication facts is essential. Use flashcards, online songs & games (e.g. Times Tables Rock Stars) to make it more fun & try firing questions at them while going about family life! Encourage them to practise the 4 operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication & division.</p>
 <p>Science</p>	<p>Through a study of Carl Linnaeus, the children will learn how living things are classified, building on prior knowledge of vertebrates and invertebrates. They will also find out about good and bad bacteria and investigate the best conditions for growing mould! The next science topic is all about evolution. Year 6 will develop their understanding about how living things change over time and how fossils can tell us about Earth's inhabitants from millions of years ago. The children will learn that offspring are not usually identical to parents, how animals and plants adapt to their environment and how adaptation may lead to evolution.</p>	<p>Your child could check out this website, which has a variety of simple experiments to try at home: https://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/</p>

<p>History</p> 	<p>During the autumn term, Year 6 will re-visit periods in history that were taught in other year groups but with a particular focus on crime and punishment, exploring how it has changed over time. This unit of work will culminate with an investigation of how crime and punishment today compares with that of the past.</p>	<p>Find out about crime and punishment through history in books or online using websites like this: Crime and punishment - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>In the first geography topic this year, the class will explore how to use maps to locate countries and understand more about the world. The children will learn why different places have different times and why the world is divided into different climate zones. They will also understand more about why the Arctic and Antarctic are different from the rest of the world.</p>	<p>When going out & about, encourage your child to look at maps (paper & digital) to locate the place & to navigate there from the starting point. When using maps, can your child tell you about the different parts of these maps and what they can tell us about different areas?</p>
<p>Art & Design</p> 	<p>Through a drawing topic, the class will learn how to create landscape pictures with 'staffage' - the term that describes the human and animal figures in landscapes. The children will explore and respond to work by artists, including John Constable, Henri Rousseau and Mackenzie Thorpe. They will experiment with techniques such as 'foreshortening' - using perspective to create the illusion of an object receding into the distance - and think about the appearance of objects, before creating and evaluating their own landscape.</p>	<p>Can your child create other landscapes, focusing on favourite places or local areas of interest? Perhaps they could explore with different media.</p>
<p>Design & Technology</p> 	<p>In their first design and technology topic this year, the class will research and investigate, design, make, use and evaluate a water wall for the Reception children. A water wall is an exciting activity for young children to move water round. In this unit, the children will find out about exciting elements like pulleys and Archimedes screws!</p>	<p>Look out for messages requesting your child to bring in resources such as empty plastic bottles and tubs for collecting water. You will see our exciting creations on our social media pages!</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>In the first RE topic, the class will consider the overarching question: Does belief in life after death help Muslims lead a good life? The children will find out about what the Qur'an tells Muslims about life & death & how to live a good life & how leading a good life can make the world a place where we want to be. The second RE topic will focus on the question: Do Christian celebrations and traditions help Christians understand who Jesus was and why he was born?</p>	<p>Can your child share what they have learned about the religion of Islam & the people who follow it (Muslims)? How does this compare to what they have learned about Christian celebrations and traditions?</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>As part of class sessions, the children will further develop swimming & water safety skills. Dolphin Centre instructors will check proficiency in jumping into the water, sculling, front & back strokes, treading water, swimming 25 metres using any stroke & swimming 10 metres wearing clothes. Throughout the autumn term, Year 6 will also learn new skills in football, rounders and tag rugby.</p>	<p>Support your child to remember to wear (or bring) the right kit on the right day: Monday – PE kit (including warm & waterproof clothing as we will be outside in most weathers) and Wednesday - swimming,</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>The class will explore what human rights and democracy are, including how the democratic process works in the UK. For the next unit of work, the children will learn about the biological, physical and emotional changes that can occur during puberty for both sexes.</p>	<p>We will send a more detailed letter about the content of the relationships and sex education lessons nearer the time. If, after talking openly about these issues with your child, you have any questions or need any advice, please get in touch.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>Year 6 will continue to enjoy brass sessions led by the Durham Music Service. As well as learning to play the instrument, we will further develop musical skills such as notation, listening & appraising. There will be opportunities to explore different musical genres & to sing in harmony.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to listen to a variety of musical genres & to try to identify the style of music & the instruments played.</p>

<p>Computing</p> 	<p>During the autumn term, the class will re-visit the massively important topic of online safety, learning how to create a positive online presence and how to address online bullying. The children will learn more about networks – what they are, what they do and how they connect devices. During this topic, they will also consider the safety aspects of networks and explore the positives and negatives of using networks. Year 6 will also explore blogs, considering their features and how they can be used to engage an audience effectively. They will create their own blog post and comment positively on other’s blog posts.</p>	<p>Talk to your child regularly about their online presence – what they are accessing, how they behave online and how they can protect private information. Up-to-date online safety guidance and advice is posted on school’s Facebook and X pages.</p>
<p>Spanish</p> 	<p>This year will be an introduction to Spanish for the class. Using Language Angels, the children will begin their lessons by learning the fundamentals of the language, particularly the Spanish phonemes and how to pronounce these.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you any of the new words or phrases that they have been learning in Spanish? Why not sign up to Duolingo to help your child practise Spanish at home? https://www.duolingo.com/</p>
<p>Trips, Experiences & Enrichment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Den Building at Hamsterley Forest (Enrichment) • Kirkleatham Museum (Science) • Baltic (Art) • Pantomime 	

Within school we have 6 values: **Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Fairness, Teamwork** and **Ambition**.
These are interwoven through our curriculum and everyday practice.