

Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 6

Spring 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 be writing their own persuasive letters based on the humorous picture book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. The children will also use the short, wordless animation 'Alma' to write a story episode with parallel narrators and a broadsheet newspaper report.</p> <p>The first class novel Year 6 will be reading during the spring term will be 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. This interesting and clever story follows the character of Stanley Yelnats, a young boy unjustly sent to a juvenile detention centre, where the boys are forced to dig large holes daily. Following this, the class will read 'Where Monsters Lie' by Polly Ho-Yen – a mystery novel about the legend of the monsters of the loch in Mivtown.</p> <p>The class will also base some writing on 'Varmints' by Helen Ward – writing contrasting setting descriptions and a discussion text.</p>	<p>Continue to support your child to improve their reading fluency and comprehension by encouraging them to read at home. Record any independent reading in their reading record. We ask that your child reads at least three times a week at home.</p>
 <p>Maths</p>	<p>Fractions, Decimals & Percentages: Simplifying fractions; comparing, adding and subtracting related fractions; adding and subtracting mixed numbers; finding percentages of amounts; understanding percentages and pie charts; FDP equivalence.</p> <p>Proportional Reasoning: Ratio tables; using the language of ratio; recipes; scale drawings; scale factors; miles and kilometres; correspondence problems.</p> <p>Geometric Reasoning: Measuring and drawing angles; calculating missing angles; circles.</p>	<p>Quick recall of number facts, such as times tables, is essential. TTRS is a great way to ensure your child continues to remember multiplication facts.</p>
 <p>Science</p>	<p>The first science topic in the spring term will focus on electricity. The children will learn the recognised symbols used to represent simple circuits, understanding what makes a complete and incomplete circuit. After exploring variations within circuits, the children will complete a voltage experiment. The next unit will explore light – the children will learn that light travels in straight lines and explore the anatomy of the eye in order to understand how we see. They will also investigate the formation of shadows, how light can be reflected and how white light can be split into the colour spectrum.</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>The next history topic in Year 6 will explore why Darlington flourished during the Industrial Revolution. The class will look at what Darlington was like before the Industrial Revolution, what is meant by 'Industrial Revolution' and how people's lives differed during the period.</p>	<p>Darlington Library has maps and documents linked to the history of Darlington and is well worth a visit to support the children's learning in this topic.</p>

<p>Geography</p> 	<p>During the spring term, the children will learn about the world's natural resources and what 'trade' is. They will identify what natural resources the UK has, before finding out where these are exported to and how this happens. Finally, the class will consider whether all trade is ethical and what the global supply chain is.</p>	<p>Talking to your child about natural resources and trade would really support them with this topic, as would drawing their attention to any relevant news stories. If there are links with the work that family members do, chat about that as well.</p>
<p>Art & Design</p> 	<p>In Year 6, the focus for art this term is to create a full-length portrait. Initially, the class will explore the artists Amy Sherald, Banksy and Vincent van Gogh and practise mixing and naming shades, tints and tones of the same colour, including darker shades using variations of primary colours for shadows. The children will also experiment with different brushes and sketch different perspectives and positions. They will also have the opportunity to evaluate their own artwork.</p>	<p>If your child has enjoyed creating a full-length portrait, maybe they could create their own at home. Could they teach a family member how to create a full-length-portrait?</p>
<p>Design & Technology</p> 	<p>In design and technology, Year 6 will learn that 'mezze' is a selection of small savoury dishes designed to be shared and that they are found in countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran and Iraq. The class will make some different mezze dishes, tasting and evaluating them.</p> <p>The second unit this term complements the children's learning in science; they will use their knowledge of electricity to design and make a card that incorporates a working circuit.</p>	<p>Talk to your child about what they are designing and creating at school. Maybe they could design something similar to make at home...they could even cook you a mezze tea!</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>The first RE topic in the spring term will explore the question 'What motivates Humanists to lead good lives?'. The children will discuss what a 'good life' is, what actions a Humanist might take to live a good life and what would motivate them to live a better life.</p> <p>The next topic question explores if Christianity is still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth. Year 6 will explore who has influenced them, how Christianity influences lives today and what legacy they would like to leave.</p>	<p>Ask your child to share what they have learned about in RE. Can they share their ideas and beliefs based on discussions they have had during RE lessons?</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>During the spring term, Year 6 will learn and improve their skills in dance, badminton, gymnastics and hockey.</p>	<p>Support your child to remember to wear the right kit on the right days. Year 6 will have PE lessons on Monday and Thursday afternoons.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>This term, Year 6 will explore relationships, developing their understanding of the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship and discussing how couples might show their love & commitment towards each other. Following this, the children will then move on to learn how money can affect people. This includes how we can save & spend money; why people borrow money; what the difference is between manageable and unmanageable debt; and why money is deducted from our earnings.</p>	<p>Please talk openly with your child about the topics we cover during our PSHE lessons & contact us if any issues arise during these discussions.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>Year 6 will continue to enjoy brass sessions led by Mrs Carr from the Durham Music Service. As well as learning to play the instrument, the children will further develop musical skills such as notation, listening and appraising. There will also be opportunities to explore different musical genres and to sing in harmony.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to listen to a variety of musical genres and to try to identify the style of music and the instruments played.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>This term, Year 6 will learn about Python - a text-based coding language. The children will use Python to perform mathematical calculations and understand how it can be used to program a graphical user interface. The class will also explore and develop simple 3D models using CAD software.</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 social media pages.</p>

<p>Spanish</p> 	<p>During the spring term, the class will continue learning Spanish through the topics 'Los Animales' (Animals) and 'Sé' (I know how to...). Through a variety of speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks, the children will learn the vocabulary and grammar needed to give more detailed and personalised responses.</p>	<p>Ask your child to teach you the French they have learned! There are games & activities here too... https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zxsvr82</p>
<p>Trips, Experiences & Enrichment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham University (PSHE) • Number Day (Maths) • World Book Day (English) • First Aid (Enrichment) 	

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