

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

English



Grammar (The Place Value of Punctuation & Grammar): Common, proper, collective & partitive nouns; Verbs & verb phrases; The subject of a sentence; Building single-clause sentences; Co-ordinating conjunctions; Compound & dummy subjects; Gerunds.

Writing: Contrasting diary recounts in role; Showing character through dialogue in narratives; Non-chronological report in the form of an encyclopaedia page; Narrative with flashback; Explanation text.

Texts: Rumaysa: A Fairytale by Radiya Hafiza; Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin; Amazing Evolution: The Journey of Life by Anna Claybourne; The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen.

Reading: Daily whole class reading sessions will be based on the texts listed above, as well as a series of shorter linked texts & extracts. These will be a mixture of fiction & non-fiction, many of which link to wider curriculum topics covered over the years. We will learn to read with fluency, for meaning & to actively engage with a wide variety of texts.

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 & read/hear at school.

Maths



Place Value: Numbers up to 10,000,000, represent, partition & know the value of digits, order & compare numbers, round to the nearest 10/100/1,000 & find differences between numbers, including negative integers.

Position & Direction: Read & plot co-ordinates in all 4 quadrants, including translations & reflections.

Operations: Add & subtract whole numbers beyond 1,000,000, use short & long division with confidence & use approximation & the inverse to check answers.

Statistics & Circles: Understand & interpret dual bar charts, line charts & pie charts, understand & solve problems involving circles & calculate the mean average.

Fractions: Understand square, cube & prime numbers, use common factors to simplify, compare, order, add & subtract fractions/mixed numbers, multiply & divide fractions & find fractions of amounts.

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.

Science



Through a study of Carl Linnaeus, we will learn how living things are classified, building on prior knowledge of vertebrates & invertebrates. We will find out about good & bad bacteria & investigate the best conditions for growing mould! The next topic on evolution will develop understanding that living things change over time & that fossils tell us about Earth's inhabitants from millions of years ago. We will learn that offspring are not usually identical to parents, how animals & plants adapt to their environment & how adaptation may lead to evolution.










Your child could check out this website, which has a variety of simple experiments to try at home:
[Moldy Apples - Science Fun](#)

History



We will re-visit periods in history that were taught in other year groups, but with a particular focus on crime & punishment & how it has changed over time. This unit of work will culminate with an investigation of how crime & punishment today compares with that of the past.

Find out about crime & punishment through history in books or online using websites like this:
[Crime and punishment - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#)

<p>Geography</p> 	<p>We will learn more about where we live, within the North East region by locating places & features (human & physical) & navigating using tools such as maps, grid references & compasses. We will find out about changes in the region & consider future changes & sustainable development.</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. Once there, discuss human & physical features.</p>
<p>Art & Design</p> 	<p>Through a drawing topic, we will learn how to create landscape pictures with 'staffage' which is the term that describes the human & animal figures in landscapes. We will explore & respond to work by artists including John Constable, Henri Rousseau & Mackenzie Thorpe. We will experiment with techniques such as 'foreshortening' – using perspective to create the illusion of an object receding into the distance – & think about the appearance of objects, before creating & evaluating their own landscape.</p>	<p>Your child could create other landscapes focusing on favourite places or local areas of interest. They could try out different media.</p>
<p>Design & Technology</p> 	<p>We will research & investigate, design, make, use & evaluate a water wall for the Reception children. A water wall is used to move water round & we will find out about exciting elements like pulleys & Archimedes screws!</p>	<p>Look out for messages requesting your child to bring in resources such as empty plastic bottles & tubs for collecting water.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>We will consider the overarching question: Does belief in life after death help Muslims lead a good life? We 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.</p>	<p>Ask your child to share what they have learned about the religion of Islam & the people who follow it (Muslims).</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>As part of class sessions, we 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. We will also learn new skills in football, rounders & tag rugby.</p>	<p>Support your child to remember to wear the right kit on the right day: Wednesday – swimming; Thursday – PE, including warm & waterproof clothing as we will be outside in most weathers.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>We will explore what human rights & democracy are & how the democratic process works in the UK. For the next unit of work, we will learn about the biological, physical & 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 & 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>We 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>We will re-visit the massively important topic of online safety, learning how to create a positive online presence & how to address online bullying. We will explore coding by designing & making games with different variables & functions, then testing & debugging programs. We will learn to blog effectively by writing our own posts & commenting on those written by others.</p>	<p>Talk to your child regularly about their online presence – what they are accessing, how they behave online & how they can protect private information. Up-to-date online safety guidance & advice is posted on school's Facebook & X pages.</p>
<p>French</p> 	<p>We will learn some of the key phonemes of the French language, in order to develop accurate pronunciation. We will then apply this knowledge in a topic about school, learning the nouns & determiners for subjects, as well as being able to express likes & dislikes.</p>	<p>Ask your child to teach you the French they have learned! There are games & activities here too: KS2 French - BBC Bitesize</p>

Trips,
Experiences &
Enrichment



- Fieldwork in an area of the North East (geography)
- Hurworth walk (history)
- Kirkleatham Museum (science)
- Pantomime at the Hippodrome

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