







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>Last half term, as a class we read 'The Highland Falcon Thief' by M.G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman. This thrilling novel (part of a series of mystery books) tells the story of a young boy, Harrison Beck, and his uncle as they embark on the final journey of Britain's most famous steam train. During the journey, a precious jewel goes missing and Harrison finds himself at the centre of the investigation. Using this novel for inspiration, the class will be writing an informal series of recounts, a report and a fiction piece of their choice.</p> <p>Our class novel for this term is Pax by Sara Pennypacker – a moving story of the extraordinary friendship between a boy and his fox and their epic journey to be reunited. This story is told from two perspectives and will help the children write their own stories with two narrators. Later in the term, the children will also be writing a discussion text and an obituary.</p> <p>During Spring 2, we will be reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q Rauf. This is a heart-warming story, giving a child's perspective on the refugee crisis as well as highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness.</p>	<p>Please continue to encourage your child to read at home. It is the expectation that they read at least three times at home, write this in their reading record and have a parent/carer sign this at the end of each week. Thank you for your support with this.</p>

<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Decimals: Round, add and subtract decimals; multiply and divide decimals by 10, 100 and 1000; multiply and divide decimals by integers.</p> <p>Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: Decimal and fraction equivalence; fractions as decimals; understand percentages; percentage of amounts.</p> <p>Ratio: Ratio tables; using ratio within recipes; understand the ratio symbol; using scale factors; similar shapes.</p> <p>Algebra: 1 and 2 step function machines; form expressions; substitution; formulae; 1 and 2 step equations; pairs of values.</p> <p>Measures: Metric measures; convert between metric measures; miles and km.</p> <p>Perimeter, Area and Volume: Area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes; area of triangles and parallelograms; volume.</p>	<p>Please encourage your child to keep practising their arithmetic skills with the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will use these in all areas of our maths and knowing facts off by heart will make it easier! They can also continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars to help with their multiplication and division recall speed. Each week, your child will complete a short arithmetic test, similar to the arithmetic paper they will do as part of the SATs. They will bring this home so that you can see the kinds of questions they will be expected to answer. Please discuss with them areas they are confident with and those that feel that they need to develop. You should see an increase in their scores as the term goes on.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>Our science topic for this term is all about light. Children will learn that light travels in straight lines and will explore the anatomy of the eye to help them understand how we see. They will investigate the formation of shadows and how the size of a shadow changes when the object is moved nearer the light source. They will also investigate how light can be reflected and bent and how white light can be split into the colour spectrum.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you the facts about light that they have learned this term?</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>Our geography topic this term is 'Mapping the World'. The children will develop their locational knowledge of continents, oceans and countries around the world, and use atlases to find and compare key information such as area and population. They will also learn about lines of longitude and latitude (including the equator, prime meridian and tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) and understand how to identify specific locations in degrees, minutes and seconds.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to use atlases and online maps such as Google Maps to locate and research family holiday destinations. Perhaps you could put together a family wish list of places you'd all like to visit!</p>
<p>Art & Design</p> 	<p>The focus for art this term is to create a full-length portrait. At the start of this unit, the class will be exploring the artists Amy Sherald, Banksy and Mackenzie Thorpe and practising 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 be experimenting with different brushes and sketching from different perspectives and in different positions. After they have completed their portraits, the children will 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>This term, the aim of Design and Technology is to design, make and evaluate a product with a cam-driven component. The children will generate ideas in order to develop their designs. In order to make their design, they will need to have a step-by-step plan and consider which tools they will need. Following the making of the product, the children will evaluate by comparing their final product to the original design specification and testing the product.</p>	<p>Can you talk to your child about what they are designing and creating at school? Maybe they could design something similar to make at home..</p>

<p>RE</p> 	<p>This term, during our RE lessons, the children will be exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and science: conflicting or complementary? • What do Christians believe Jesus did to 'save' the people? 	<p>Can your child tell you what they have learnt about what Christians believe about how Jesus 'saved' people? Maybe you could have a family discussion or debate about creation and science...</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>PE will continue on Thursday afternoons; over the course of the term, the class will learn and improve their skills in dance, handball, gymnastics and hockey.</p>	<p>Children should come dressed in PE kit every Thursday. We will be outside in all weathers (within reason) so a waterproof coat, hat and gloves are advised as well please, particularly during these colder months.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>During the first half term in Spring, the children will explore relationships, developing their understanding of the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship and discussing how couples might show their love and commitment towards each other. Following this unit of work, the class will learn about how money can affect us. This includes: how we can save and 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 and contact us if any issues arise during these discussions.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>This term, the children will continue to develop their skills in reading music and playing brass instruments. This will be led by Mrs Carr, from the Durham Music Service. The children will be listening carefully to each other's performances and offering helpful feedback. Once a week, the children will be part of a singing assembly where they will learn about the dimensions and genres of music, and learn songs from different genres, and songs linked to our school values.</p>	<p>At the end of Spring 1, you will be invited in to school to watch a small brass performance. You will be sent an email to confirm the date and time of this event.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>Using Purple Mash, the children will learn about spreadsheets. They will learn how to navigate and enter data into cells and be introduced to basic formulae, such as totals, percentages and averages. They will consider how using these functions in a spreadsheet can save time. Finally, they will create graphs using data, so it is more easily understood. Through the 'Networks' unit, the children will develop their understanding of the World Wide Web, the internet and some network types (e.g. LAN and WAN). They will learn about Tim Berners-Lee and consider what the future might hold in terms of technology. The children's understanding of online safety will be developed so that they understand the benefits and risks of using location facilities on devices as well as ways in which to identify secure sites. We will re-visit appropriate online behaviour and review what a 'digital footprint' is, before exploring the positive and negative influences of technology on health and the environment (including the importance of balancing screen time with other parts of their lives).</p>	<p>Please talk openly and often to your child about the importance of behaving respectfully and responsibly online and about the need to balance screen time and other activities. Follow us on Twitter and/or Facebook for regular updates about keeping your child safe online.</p>

<p>French</p> 	<p>In French, the children will start by recapping and learning some of the key phonemes to facilitate accurate pronunciation. The children will also learn the nouns and determiners for ten school subjects in French. They will learn how to talk about the subjects they like and dislike and what day and time they study various subjects.</p> <p>In 'Manger et Bouger' (Healthy Lifestyles), we will learn the nouns and determiners for some 'healthy' and 'less healthy' foods, along with the 1st person singular conjugation of the verbs 'to eat' and 'to drink'. By the end of the unit, pupils will be able to say what they eat/do not eat and drink/do not drink to stay healthy. They will also learn the language for a variety of physical activities. We will think about 'Le week-end' and the children will learn phrases for activities they may do at the weekend. They will develop the language needed for telling the time and offering opinions.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to practise their French at home by teaching you! There are lots of French games and activities on the BBC website www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</p>
<p>Trips, Experiences and Enrichment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid (enrichment activity) • Captain Chemistry • World Book Day – Animals • Enterprise (enrichment activity) • Trip to Durham University 	

Within school we have 6 values: **Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Fairness, Teamwork** and **Ambition.**

These are interwoven through our curriculum and everyday practice.