

Year 6 Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 1

Wednesday 6th September 2023
to
Friday 20th October 2023

Theme – Dragon Heart

Our topic theme for this half term is called Dragon Heart. We have named it that because our main focus in research is The Shang Dynasty – an ancient Chinese civilisation. In Science, our lessons will be concerned with plants and their relationship alongside humans. We will be looking at plant reproduction and the anatomy of flowers, as well as photosynthesis and seed dispersal. In this autumn term, everything is concerned with development and growth and we shall be looking at celebrating differences and individual talents in PSCE, with the children building upon these in their final year at Aldwyn.

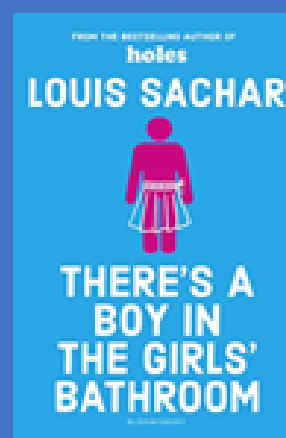
What will we read this half term?

'There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom' by Louis Sachar

'That's Bradley Chalkers for you. He tells lies. He picks fights with girls, and the teachers say he has 'serious behaviour problems.' No-one likes him.

Except Carla. She knows that Bradley is sensitive and generous and even enjoys his far-fetched stories. Carla knows that Bradley can change, if only he weren't afraid to try.'

This is a brilliant and original book by the best-selling author of 'Holes,' Louis Sachar.



We will be using this novel in Year 6 as the basis for our speaking and listening activities, guided reading, extended writing, and plot, character and setting activities.

What will we learn this half term?

Please note that all the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage and rationales for teaching. Please take time to read them.

English

In addition to our work with Louis Sachar's 'Boy In The Girls' Bathroom,' we will be developing the following skills for spelling punctuation and grammar:

- Expanding vocabulary: expanded noun phrases, modifying adjectives and adverbs.
- Cohesive devices: fronted adverbials, embedded clauses, and adverbial phrases for time.
- Sentence structure: main and sub-ordinate clauses.

In Year 6, we also consolidate objectives from all previous year groups and ensure that our children have a solid depth of understanding these various skills. For example: we revisit rules and conventions of spellings from Years 3, 4 and 5, such as apostrophe use, and spellings derived from other cultures, e.g. Latin and Greek. In addition to this, as the novel we are looking at is written by an American author, we will be looking at using vocabulary choices within our own writing - recess, zucchini, eggplant, faucet, etc.

Maths

In maths, over the next few weeks, we will study:

Number: Fractions, Decimals, and percentages

- associate a fraction with division and calculate decimal fraction equivalents for a simple fraction
- multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 giving answers up to three decimal places
- recall and use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals, and percentages, including in different contexts

Measurements: Converting measures

- solve problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure
- use, read, write, and convert between standard units, converting measurements of length, mass, volume, and time

Statistics

- interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs and use these to solve problems
- calculate and interpret the mean as an average

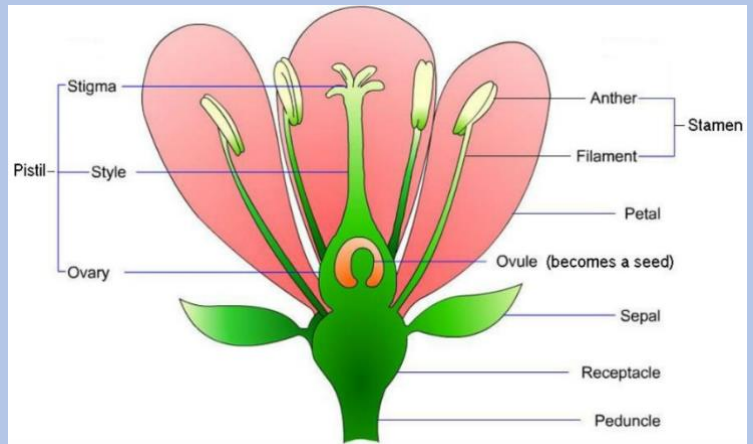
Number: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

- understand the rules for the order of operations
- solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- use estimates to check answers to calculations

Throughout Year 6 there will be a strong focus on problem solving activities, and the children will develop a wide range of problem-solving strategies, and they will be supported in developing efficient and logical methods to organise and record their work.

Science

Throughout this term, children will learn about sexual reproduction in plants. They will take part in an activity to revise the parts of a flower they learnt about in Year 3, and will find out more about the process of pollination as well as the difference between sexual and asexual reproduction.



Research Topic

The Shang Dynasty was the earliest kingdom of China in recorded history, though we know that other dynasties came before it.

- The Shang Dynasty is sometimes referred to as the 'Yin Dynasty'.
- The Shang ruled from 1600 to 1046 B.C. and they were known for their talents in mathematics, astronomy, artwork, and military technology.
- The Shang worshiped their dead ancestors as well as a supreme being called Shangdi.

For our research topic, in the first lesson, the children explain when and where the Shang Dynasty was in existence and describe features of its location. In the second lesson, children describe how the social hierarchy of the Shang Dynasty was organised and what life was like for different people. In the third lesson, children learn to explain some of the religious beliefs and practices of the people from the Shang Dynasty. In the fourth lesson, discover more about oracle bones. In the fifth lesson, children examine a range of artefacts to find out about life in the Shang dynasty. In the final lesson, children learn about who Fu Hao was and why the discovery of her tomb was significant.



Design and Technology

This term, our aim is to design playgrounds. We really enjoyed this unit a few years ago when our KS2 playground was extended. We will be encouraging the children to think practically – how can we have playgrounds which include everyone's interests and have consideration for

those who may want a quiet space, shelter, etc?

Following this, we will be getting out the glue-guns, artstraws, lollipop sticks and junk modelling to make different activities for our yards: climbing frames, swings, see-saws and other designs.



Art

We shall be creating a few still life pieces of artwork, which will display the anatomy of flowers (carpel, stigma, stamen), etc. This will be done as mixed media work – pencil crayons, felt tips, pastels will all be used in the production of the pictures and we will be making good use of our sketchbooks to record ideas and thoughts.

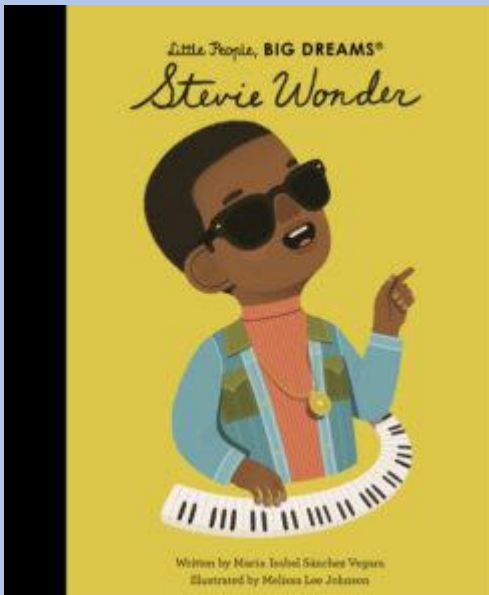
SEAL, PSHE

We are focused on 'Being Me' and celebrating differences in PSHE.

We have also booked Tameside's 'Safe Squad' service to come into school to deliver a series of lessons based on drug awareness, e-safety, fire safety and awareness of anti-social issues and the consequences of breaking the law as a child.

Music

This half-term, we will be investigating the theme of happiness in music and linking this to our 'Little People, Big Dreams' book for the term: Stevie Wonder. Stevie's 'The Secret Life In The World Of Plants' will also be getting an airing in our Science lessons. We will also be teaching how melodic phrases are developed (chord sequences and sequences of notes), and how music is structured into choruses and verses.



PE

Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school all week. Our PE consists of a plain white T-shirt, plain black shorts and trainers. This half term P.E. lessons will usually take place on Tuesdays.

P.E. sessions this half term will be based on invasion skills, gymnastics and tag rugby, and each session will also have a focus on developing the children's fitness and agility.

RE

In R.E., we will be looking at the messages different religions give to us when life gets hard. How do we live our best lives? Children should be able to work out what a worldview is and what influences this.

MFL

This half term our French topic is about life at home and where we live. We will learn vocabulary for several types of housing and the rooms in a house so we can label drawings. Then we will learn some vocabulary for the things we might find in each room and prepositions so we can describe where they are. We will write sentences to describe rooms and answer questions about French texts we have read.



Homework

Encouraging your child to read frequently at home and to develop a love of reading is the best way you can support your child's education. We have handed out reading books for the children, and we expect our children to read regularly throughout the autumn term. We would like your child to get into the habit of reading books (where possible) for 15-20 minute sessions, and record any sessions in their reading records, which have been handed out this week. Any type of reading activity can count (e.g. school reading book, free reads, newspapers/magazines, Reading Plus, comics, audiobooks, etc).

Your child will receive spellings every Friday (with the first ones going out this week) which will be tested on the following Friday. Please help your child to practise their spellings at least three times each week.

We will also hand out two pieces of homework – one for English and one for maths – every Friday, and request that the homework is handed in (or before) the following Thursday.

Thank you

We really look forward to the term ahead. If you need to get in touch, please write a note, or talk to a member of our team at the classroom door.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Bonsall