

Year 6 Newsletter



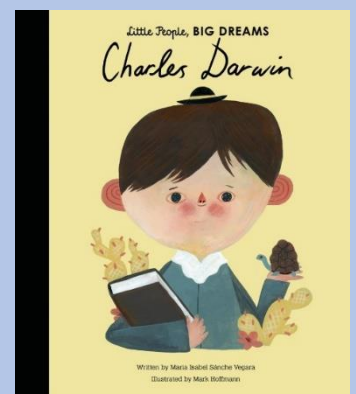
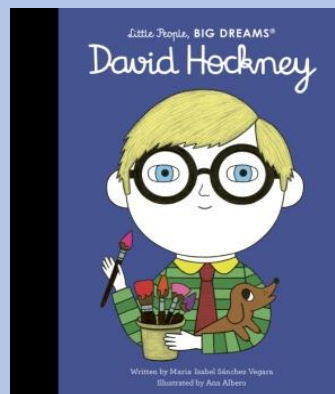
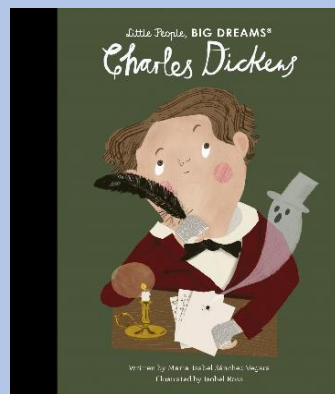
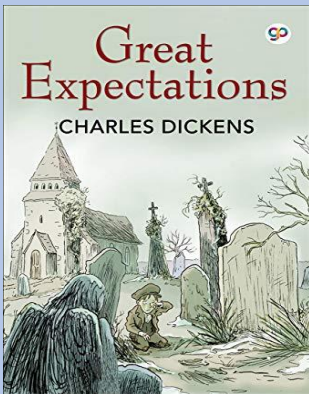
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 2

Tuesday 31st October 2023
to
Tuesday 19th December 2023

**Theme – Victorious Victorians
Little People, Big Dreams Focus: David Hockney & Charles Darwin**

What will we read this half term?



'Great Expectations', 'Oliver Twist', and 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

'I will honour Christmas in my heart, and keep it with me all the year.'

This half term, we will be looking at no less than three books by the famous Victorian writer - one of Mr. Bonsall and Mr. Mitchell's favourites: Charles Dickens.

We shall be looking at the life of Charles Dickens in detail, and writing our own biographies on his fascinating life. In addition to this, we will be writing our own character studies

We always link these books to our work in History, which is based around Victorian society – we will be teaching the children about how life used to be in the workhouses and mills: eating gruel, picking oakum and conditions within the dormitories.

What will we learn this half term?

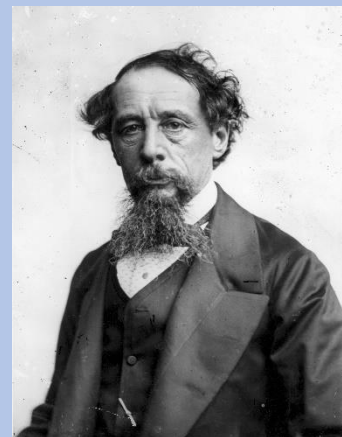
Please note that all the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage and rationales for teaching. Please take time to read them.

English

In addition to our studies on Charles Dickens' life and work, we will be developing the following skills for spelling punctuation and grammar:

- Expanding our range of punctuation – using dashes, hyphens, colons to mark clauses, semi-colons, etc.
- The difference between phrases and clauses.
- Proofreading and editing.

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 a Victorian author, we will be looking at using vocabulary choices within our own writing – larks, shilling, scullery, expectations, etc.



Maths

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.

In this half term, there is a significant focus on fractions. In this lengthy unit, children will build on prior knowledge of equivalent fractions to recognise when fractions are, and are not, in their simplest form. We will use our understanding of common factors to simplify fractions, and learn that when the numerator and denominator have no common factors greater than 1, the fraction is in its simplest form. The step begins with fractions with one common factor (greater than 1) and moves on to fractions with several common factors. Children are encouraged to look for the greatest possible number to divide by, but also understand that simplification can be performed in more than one step. Pictorial representations and fraction walls can be used to support understanding.

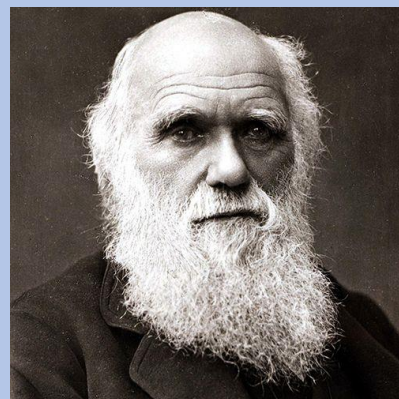
We also practice multiplying fractions and mixed numbers by integers. A variety of representations can show that multiplying fractions by integers is the same as repeated addition of a fraction. As when adding and subtracting fractions, the denominator does not change. Children should recognise that they need to multiply the numerator by the integer. When multiplying mixed numbers, children can either partition them into wholes and parts, multiplying each of them by the integer, or convert the mixed number to an improper fraction and then multiply the numerator by the integer.

Research Topic

For our research topic, during this half term, we will be building upon our studies on Charles Dickens for English lessons, and looking at the Victorians in more depth and detail. We will be teaching how the Victorian era fits into the wider context of British history, and comparing Victorian childhood with our own experiences. In addition to this, we will be learning about the British Empire, the Industrial Revolution, exploring the chronology of changes to the rights of children, and seeking to understand the differences between the rich and the poor in Victorian society.

Science

Alongside Charles Dickens, we will be looking at another famous Charles, who died in the Victorian period: Darwin. In Science, our topic this term is Evolution and Inheritance, which builds upon the children's understanding of fossils, rocks, and animals, which they have learned about throughout the whole of the Key Stage. We will be covering the following concepts as we progress towards the end of the term:



- Inheritance - Children will be able to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Adaptation - Pupils will recognise how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in diverse ways and that adaptation can lead to evolution.
- Theory of Evolution - Children will learn that living things have changed over time - and continue to.
- Evidence for Evolution - Fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. We call this the fossil record.
- Evidence for Evolution - Humans - Children will be encouraged to think scientifically. This lesson reinforces learning with humans - us - as an example.
- Adaptation, Evolution and Human Intervention.

Design Technology

Building on our previous learning about the Shang Dynasty, we will be designing and making soap carvings, based on the Jade carvings and statues which were made by members of the ancient Chinese civilisation. We will design our carvings, then use our creative skills to make our own carving.



P.E.

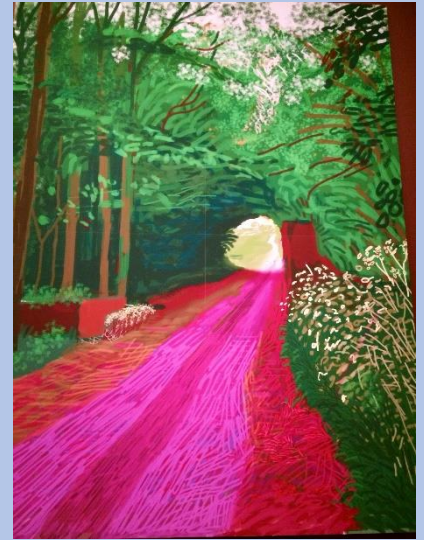
Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school all week. This half term P.E. lessons will usually take place on Tuesdays. P.E. sessions this half term will be based on gymnastics. In addition to this, four days in November will be devoted to cycling proficiency through Bikeability. See Mr. Mitchell for more information if your child has not already signed up.

Art

In art lessons, the children will be exploring a selection of paintings through art appreciation activities. We will do this by studying a number of artists including David Hockney and John Singer Sergeant. We will be collecting ideas in sketchbooks and plan for a final piece of work after researching the life, techniques and artistic intentions of these masters.



David Hockney will also be the focus of this term's 'Little People Big Dreams' book. We will be looking at his life and work in more detail.



SEAL, PSHE

We are focused on 'Celebrating Differences' in PSHE.

Music

Music lessons this term are focused on jazz, which may not be the children's usual thing, but hopefully we may be able to win over some new converts. If anything, it'll give us a good opportunity to play some Charles Mingus, Sun Ra and Pharoah Sanders as they are all wonderful.



R.E.

In R.E., we will be looking at various creation stories in the world's major religions. In addition to this, we will cover less known or extinct religions and stories from diverse cultures.

By the end of the unit, all children will be able to:

- Express ideas about how and why religion can help believers when times are hard.
- Outline Christian, Hindu and/or non-religious beliefs about life after death.
- Explain some reasons why Christians and Humanists have different ideas about an afterlife.

Most children will also be able to compare some of the creation stories, identify the type of creation story and explain why Jews and Christians have the same creation story.

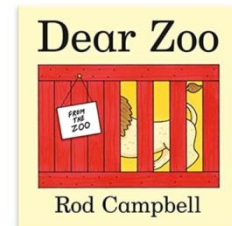
Computing

Building on the e-safety sessions from last half-term (where we looked at scam emails, phishing and set up a fake social media platform) we will be teaching about fake news and creating our own fake news stories. Be prepared for dinosaurs grazing on Aldwyn's field.

Foreign Languages

This half term our French topic is about animals (les animaux). We will be teaching this by allowing the children to write their own books in French. These books will be based upon the popular book for children - 'Dear Zoo', (or 'Cher Zoo'), which is famous for its pop up panels. You'll probably be familiar with this one from when the children were younger. "I wrote to the Zoo to send me a pet..."

The sentences in French will be simple and repetitive, and the books will be a good way of getting the classes to talk about animals in another language.



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. We would like your child to get into the habit of reading books (where possible) for regular 15-20 minute sessions, and record any sessions in their reading records. Any type of reading activity can count (e.g. school reading book, free reads, newspapers/magazines, comics, audiobooks, etc). In addition to this, your child now has a password and log-in for the excellent Reading Plus scheme. Reading Plus is a web based program, similar to TT Rockstars, which helps with fluency and comprehension. We would love it if our Year 6's could get into the habit of engaging with this – and SATs tests online – on a regular basis. Thankyou!

Your child will continue to receive spellings every Tuesday, and will be tested on the following Tuesday. 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 the following Thursday.

Thank you

We really look forward to the term ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mr Mitchell and Mr Bonsall