

Year 6 Newsletter



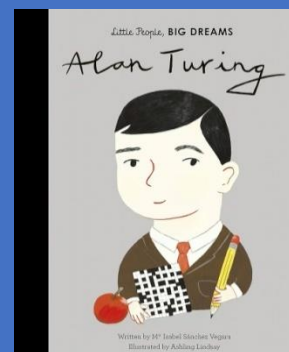
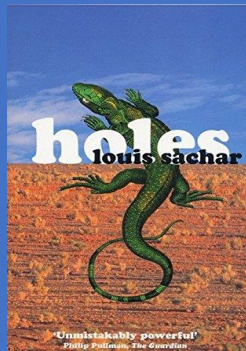
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Spring Term 1:

Wednesday 3rd January 2024
to
Friday 9th February 2024

Theme – Finding Your Way
Little People, Big Dreams Focus: Mother Teresa, Alan Turing

What will we read this half term?



'Holes' by Louis Sachar

'Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so he isn't too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to a boys' juvenile detention centre. At Camp Green Lake, the boys must dig a hole a day, five feet deep, five feet across, in the dried up lake bed. The Warden claims that the labour is character building, but it is a lie. Stanley must dig up the truth.'

This is a brilliant and original book by the best-selling author of 'There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom,' 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 'Holes,' we will be developing the following skills for spelling punctuation and grammar:

- Writing narrative recounts, which demonstrate an appropriate use of formality, including a newspaper article based on the events taking place in 'Holes'.
- Distinguishing between speech, dialogue and narration – we will be looking at these terms as we write a few letters home from Stanley, the main character in 'Holes', as he progresses through his time at Camp Green Lake.
- Understanding the difference between the active and passive voice.

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 we will be looking at systems within the human body (nervous, circulatory and digestive), we will be expanding our vocabulary by looking at scientific terms, with words such as: aorta, ventricle, oxygenated, cardio-vascular and haemoglobin.

Finally, we will be attempting to be able to remember and recite a classic poem from one of the greatest poets – 'Ozymandias' by Percy Bysshe Shelley. "Look on my works, ye mighty – and despair!"



Maths

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

Fractions

- Multiplying both the denominator and numerator by the integer, or multiplying the numerator of the part in a mixed number and not the whole.
- Converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions.
- Convert any improper fractions to mixed numbers.

Ratio

- Solve problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts.

Algebra

- Use simple formulae.
- Generate and describe linear number sequences.

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.

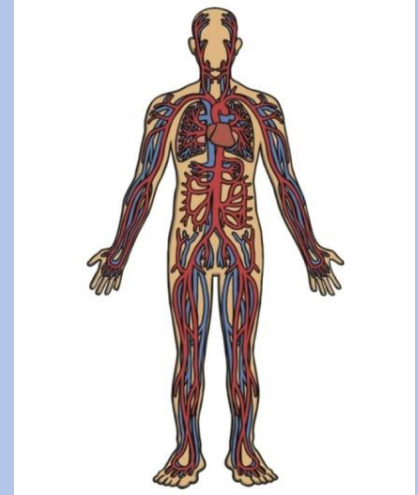
Throughout year 6 there will be a strong focus on problem solving activities, and the children will develop a wide range of problem-solving strategies, and they will be supported in developing efficient and logical methods to organise and record their work.

Science

Throughout this term, our children will learn about the workings of the bodies of animals, including humans. This unit recaps the children's learning from Year 4 about how animals survive and stay healthy, and we will learn even more about how different organ systems work. This unit will emphasise the importance of diet, exercise and lifestyle in the way that bodies function. We will look at the three main parts of the circulatory system and the job of the heart. The children will then go on to learn about what blood is comprised of and how it is transported all around the body. This will include an investigation to explore how heart rate is affected by exercise, including a discussion on how to plan a fair test and measure and record accurately. Our children will then learn the importance of exercise and conduct a survey to find the most popular exercise in their class. They will apply their understanding by discussing different people's lifestyles and how this can affect their bodies. Finally, we shall learn about drugs and alcohol and how they can have an impact on our bodies, specifically in relation to the circulatory system. Here are the following targets for Science this term:

- Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the function of the heart, blood vessels and blood.
- Describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.
- Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.
- To plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary; record data and results of increasing complexity using classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs; report findings from enquiries, including conclusions and degree of trust in results, in written forms by reporting and presenting the findings of their enquiry.
- Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.

Your Circulatory System



Research Topic/Geography

This term, we will continue to focus on map and geographical skills and fieldwork, including compass work, for our Geography lessons.

In addition to this, we will start to look at the local area (and history) of Drolysdon and Audenshaw, and how the land and its use has changed over time (railways, settlements, shops, the Moravian Settlement). We will be getting our children to plot out their own maps of the immediate area around school.



Some key terms will be looked at more thoroughly as we progress through this unit of work:

Heritage – the history and traditions of a particular area or culture that are significant today.

Living memory/beyond living memory – including events that happened a long time ago and cannot be remembered by people who are alive today.

Design and Technology

This is linked to food technology, and the theme will be 'Come Dine With Me'. The children will have to plan and devise a healthy three-course meal. We will work in small groups and focus on three key ingredients, in an attempt to devise the best class recipe. We will explore the farm to fork process for each key ingredient.

Hopefully, by the end of the unit, pupils will be able to:

- Find a suitable recipe for their course.
- Record the relevant ingredients and equipment needed.
- Follow a recipe, including using the correct quantities of each ingredient.
- Write a recipe, explaining the process taken.
- Explain where certain key foods come from before they appear on the supermarket shelf.

Furthermore, the children will be continuing to develop their playgrounds (which they began in the Autumn Term) and finishing off their designs, learning how to use glue guns safely and appropriately.



Art

In art lessons this term, the children will be exploring graffiti and street art. The overall theme of the work is 'Making Our Voices Heard.' We will be questioning the purpose and place of street art – prompting discussion and justifying views and opinion on what art actually is. In sketchbooks, children will begin to think about how they could create a powerful drawn image to shout about their chosen passion, cause or issue.



We will be asking the following questions of them:

- Will our work have bold colour – if so, what will these be?
- Will symbols be included to express meaning?
- Will the image draw inspiration from a particular style, like patterns from the Maya or another artist we have looked at?
- Will it include dramatic light and dark shades, or will the piece be tonal and use just one colour?

SEAL, PSHE

We are focused on 'Dreams and Goals' in PSHE this term, and will continue to progress through our scheme of work from Jigsaw. Jigsaw PSHE perfectly connects the pieces of Personal, Social, Health and Well-Being Education. The programme teaches children and young people emotional literacy, social and lifelong skills and resilience in an age-appropriate manner. We will be discussing the ambitions of the children, and outlining ways in which we can achieve targets and goals, with an aim towards self improvement.

Music

This half-term, Year 6 will be continuing to look at jazz music – completing a composition that they will present to the school at the end of the month. Following this, we will be celebrating the New Year with our own music on the theme of New Year.

PE

Please ensure that your child has their P.E. kit in school with them all week. This half term P.E. lessons will usually take place on Tuesday mornings with Mrs. Hind. However, we will attempt to fit in additional lessons, wherever possible, so if the children could have their kits with them every day, then they would be suitably prepared. P.E. sessions this half term will be based on indoor athletics and each session will have a focus on developing the children's fitness and agility.

RE

In R.E., we will be looking at how people across the world choose to express their religious beliefs, and whether this is best done through art and architecture, or through charity and generosity. We will also compare the ways in which different faiths show their gratitude to God.

Foreign Languages

This half term, our French topic is about visiting a French town. Learning directional, transport and town vocabulary together with prepositional phrases, the children will hopefully be able to describe their journey around their town, plan a trip and discuss shops and landmarks, giving reasoned opinions on which places in town to visit. We hope that the children will be able to create a tourist leaflet, in French, for their own local area, which will link to our topic of local history.

Computing

The focus this term is web design – one of the favourite computing topics of the pupils in the whole of Year 6. Pupils identify shopping habits have changed recently with the rise of e-commerce and then identify key features of successful web sites. The focused task involves the creation of their own 'dummy' commercial website. In the past, pupils have actually gone on to produce websites for their parent's own businesses – but not for free!

Homework

Continuing to encourage 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 will hand out reading books for the children in the first week back, and we expect our children to read regularly throughout the spring term. We would like your child to get back into the habit of reading books (if they are not doing so already) for 15-20 minute sessions every day, and record any sessions in their reading records, which will be collected and checked. 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 will have a log-in for Reading Plus, which is a fantastic online scheme of work which the children can progress through at home, whenever they like. We have seen some great progress already from using Reading Plus and we would greatly encourage engaging with the texts and activities on there.

Don't forget that – in addition to Reading Plus, we have provided log-on details for your children to access past SATs papers for additional practice in reading and maths. We shall also be arranging SATs booster groups this term – both in school and after school. Please stay tuned for more details which will be coming very soon.

Your child will receive spellings every Friday, 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 get back into the habit of handing out two pieces of homework – one for English and one for maths – each and every Friday, and request that the homework is handed back in on the following Thursday to your child's teacher to check. Times table tests will also be on a Friday

Thank-you

We really look forward to the term ahead. If you need to get in touch, please write a note in your child's reading record book, or speak to a member of our team at the classroom door.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Bonsall and the whole Year 6 team