

Year 6 Newsletter

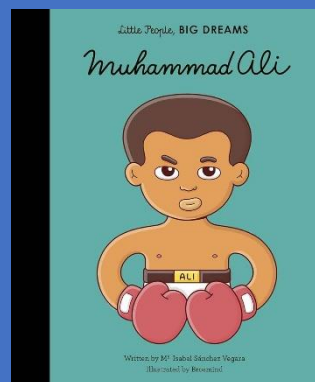


Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Summer Term 1:

Monday 15th April - Friday 24th May

Theme – Groovy Greeks
Little People, Big Dreams Focus: Billie-Jean King/Muhammad Ali



What will we read this half term?



'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

Lightning flashes and thunder rolls. Macbeth is riding home from battle when he meets three strange old women who tell him that he will be King, which is impossible... unless Macbeth is prepared to kill.

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



We were lucky enough at the start of the year to watch a performance by the Young Shakespeare Company, who gave us 'Macbeth' in full. This term, we will mainly be looking at the story of Macbeth - working out the characters personalities, their motives and their behaviour, as well as trying to understand some more difficult vocabulary from the Elizabethan period. In addition to this, we shall also be reading a little bit of 'The Tempest' and briefly looking at the life and times of Shakespeare, and the historical context behind his work.

In addition to writing extended pieces in class, based on the works of William Shakespeare, we will be developing the following skills for spelling, punctuation and grammar:

- Starting and ending paragraphs effectively - using techniques such as flashbacks and the use of 'in media res.'
- Using the subjunctive form in sentences.
- Relative 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 we are looking at the work of William Shakespeare, we will be making deliberate vocabulary choices within our own writing, with words taken from old English, and words which were created by Shakespeare himself, for example: lacklustre, frugal, dauntless, sonnet, tragedy, etc.

We will also be engaging heavily in all-important SATs preparation in time for the tests, which will take place on the week beginning **Monday 13th May**.

Maths

This half term we will continue to develop both a wide range of arithmetic and reasoning skills. The main maths topics we will cover are:

- Using a protractor to measure angles
- Common angle rules (angles on a straight line, at a point, sum of internal angles in a triangle etc)
- Finding the area of rectangles, triangles and compound shapes,
- Properties of shapes,
- Simple algebra,
- Arithmetic revision,
- Interpreting data - line graphs and pie charts,

- Rounding numbers,
- Ratio and proportion,
- Area, perimeter and volume,
- Position and direction

Throughout Year 6, we have had a strong focus on problem solving activities and the children have developed a wide range of problem-solving strategies to tackle these tasks. We will continue to apply our maths learning to problem solving contexts.

Research Topic

Our Summer research topic is based on Ancient Greece. The children will gain an understanding of where and when some key events during the ancient Greek period took place. They will explore what is meant by the terms 'trade', 'civilisation' and 'empire' and explore how, towards the end of the ancient Greek period, Alexander the Great grew an empire resulting in the Greek civilisation spreading more widely.

When learning about daily life in ancient Greece, children will explore what life was like for different people who were enslaved during ancient Greek times. They will then independently research and give feedback on different elements of daily life in ancient Greece. Children will also explore the differences between life in ancient Athens and ancient Sparta. They will learn

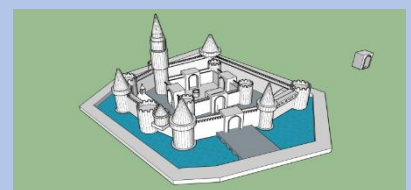


about early democracy in Athens and take part in a debate about life in Athens and Sparta. Children will use ancient Greek pottery as a primary source to help them gather evidence about the ancient Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the ancient Games and the modern Olympics. In addition to this, children will learn about the beliefs of the ancient Greeks, producing fact files about the Greek gods. Children will sequence a simple story map of a version of the Trojan War and will explore historical evidence relating to the Trojan War. Studying ancient Greece will help children to develop their questioning skills and make comparisons; learn to use historical sources and help them to understand how past events have helped to shape the world that we know today.



Art/Computing

With art this term, our work will go hand in hand with the recent scheme of learning we have looked at for computing, as we shall be looking at 3-D modelling. This will include sculpture. We will be looking at, and recognising, how art can be a part of our identity, exploring how art can be used to express memories and self, and will be taught the following skills:



- To develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.
- To create sketchbooks to record their observations and use them to review and revise ideas.
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay].
- Learn about great artists, architects and designers in history

SEAL, PSHE

We are focused on relationships this term in PSHE, and will continue to use the Jigsaw scheme of work, which teaches children and young people emotional literacy, social- and lifelong skills, including RSE/RSHE and resilience in an age-appropriate manner.

Science

Our work in Science throughout this term will be focused on light. This unit will teach your children about how we see shadows, reflection and refraction. The children will learn all about how light travels and how this enables us to see objects. The children will have the opportunity to make a functioning periscope, finding out about mirrors and the angles of reflection and incidence. They will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate refraction, carrying out some fascinating experiments into the effects of bending light. Furthermore, they will have a chance to predict what will happen in an exciting investigation into the visible spectrum. They will work in a hands-on way to explore how light creates the colours we see.



Music

Our music focus is 'Music and Me.' This looks at inspirational women in music and how they express their thoughts and feelings. It also looks at the role of women in bands such as drummers and bass players and in the music industry.

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 either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (depending upon the best opportunity). P.E. sessions this half term will be based on dance and striking and fielding games such as cricket and rounders as we shall hopefully be able to use the field as we see some improvement in the weather. We will also be focusing on understanding what makes an effective leader, and communicating as a leader. There may also be additional P.E. lessons during SATs week - and we have also had some time on the field in previous years, and so it would be best if your children had their kits at the ready.

R.E.

Our main focus on religion this term is directed towards comparisons between Christianity and Humanism. Alongside looking at these different faiths and worldviews, we will be asking the children: what is it that matters the most to us. Throughout the term, we will be asking: what is important to a Humanist way of life? This will include looking at 'The Golden Rule.' In comparison, we shall then try to understand how belief in the teachings of Jesus shapes a Christian's life and role in society by exploring Christian values and what they might look like in action.

French

This half term our French topic is all about French sports and hobbies. We will attempt to have the children asking different questions about their favourite activities and engaging in conversations in French.

Pupils will be taught:

- To engage in conversations; ask and answer questions, express opinions and respond to those of others.
- Understand basic grammar rules appropriate to the language being studied, how to apply these, for instance: to build new sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.

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. All pupils have their own reading books and we expect our pupils to read regularly throughout the term. We would like your child to get 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 at regular intervals. 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 continuing with our weekly SATs booster groups this term – these will be at the same time as they were last half term.

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.

Homework – one for English and one for maths – is given out on a Friday, and we request that it is handed back in on the following Thursday to your child's teacher to check.

SAT's prep is vital over the coming weeks, and we would encourage your child to engage in this.

Year 6 children are also welcome to attend sessions in the I.C.T. suite on Thursday mornings from 8 a.m., in which we look at past papers online.

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 planner, or speak to a member of our team at the classroom door.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Bonsall