

Year 6 Newsletter



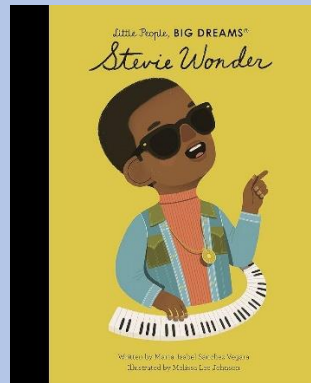
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 1

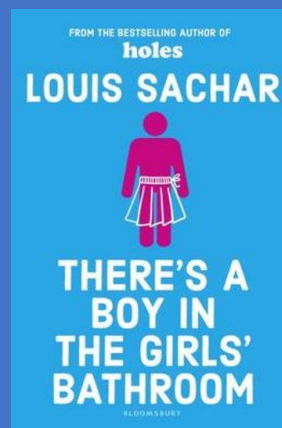
Wednesday 4th September 2024
to
Friday 25th October 2024

Theme – Victorious Victorians

Little People Big Dreams Focus: Stevie Wonder



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

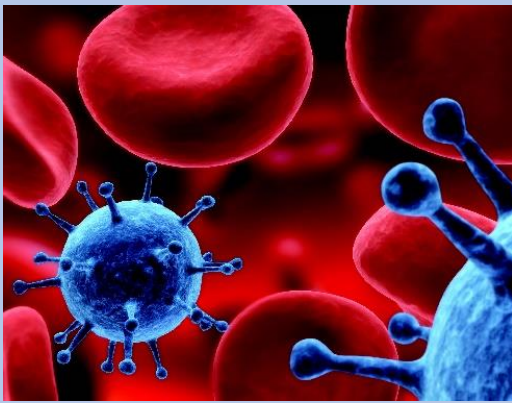
Number: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

- 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

The unit for this half term will be 'Living Things and Their Habitats' – this is all about the classification of living things, including micro-organisms. The children will build on their work in Year 4 by sorting animals into groups based on their similarities and differences. They will extend their learning to find out about the standard system of classification first developed by Carl



Linnaeus, choosing an animal and researching its classification. The children will have the opportunity to design their own 'curious creature' and classify it based on its characteristics. They will learn about micro-organisms and conduct an investigation into the growth of mould on bread. Furthermore, the children will use play-dough to create a new single celled micro-organism and explain how it is classified and why. Finally, the children will put their learning into practice by creating a field guide to the living things in their local area, showing how and why each one is classified.

Research Topic

For our research topic during this half term, we will begin to look 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. This is a subject that we will go further with after the half term as we begin to look at Charles Dickens' novels in our English lessons.



Design and Technology



This term, our aim is to design playgrounds. 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.

Computing

Autumn 1 will see a focus on E-safety in our Computing lessons – with a focus on 'fake news'. We will take a close look at scams, online cons and fake news and create our own fake news items. This will give our pupils a great insight into what to look for when spotting what the difference is between fake and real news.

SEAL, PSHE

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

We will also be booking 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. 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 (white T-shirt and black shorts) 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 invasion skills and tag rugby, and each session will also have a focus on developing the children's fitness and agility. In addition to this, your children will also be having cricket sessions on Friday mornings with the 'Chance To Shine' cricket group for a short time over this half term.

Geography

Geography lessons for this half term will be based around the subject of deserts and the idea of different biomes (rainforests, tundra, savannah, etc.) We will be attempting to answer the following questions: What is a desert? Where are deserts located? What physical features can you find in a desert? How do people use deserts? What are the current threats to deserts?



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. 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 receive spellings every Friday (beginning next week), and 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 for the following Thursday to the teacher who has set the task.

Thank you

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Bonsall