

Year 6 Newsletter



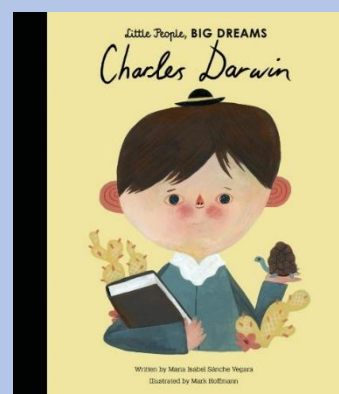
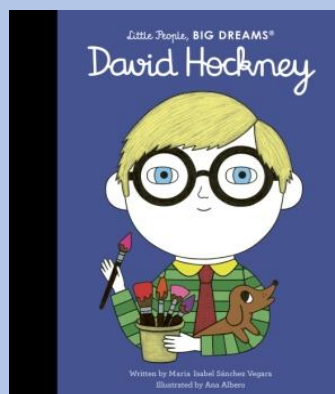
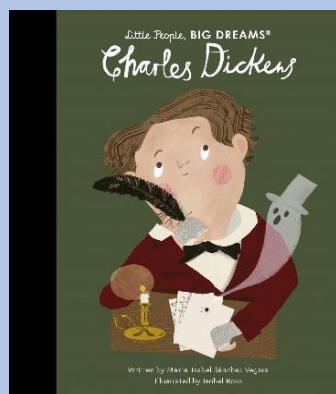
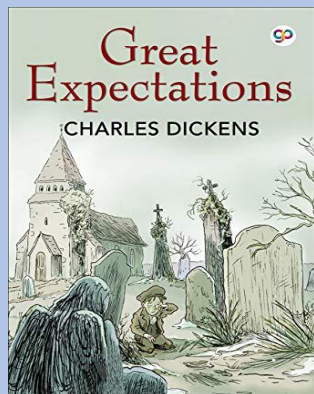
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 2

Monday 3rd November
to
Friday 19th December 2025

Theme – Finding Your Way
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. Mitchell and Miss Thompson’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 our books to our topics in History, and by looking at historical census records, the children will have the chance to compare life in different periods and think about how communities have changed. This topic will help them develop their research skills and deepen their understanding of how historians use data to tell the stories of people’s lives.

What will we learn this half term?

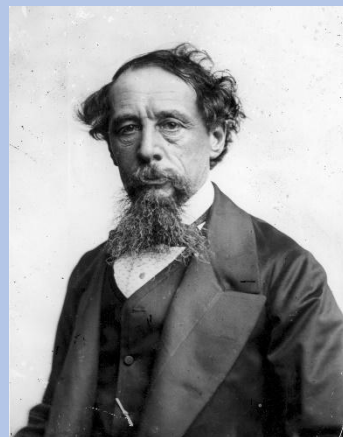
Please note that all the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage and rationales for teaching. Please take time to read them.

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.

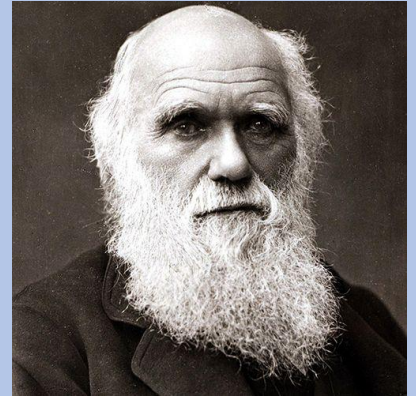
We also practice multiplying fractions and mixed numbers by integers. A variety of representations can show that multiplying fractions by integers is the same as repeated addition of a fraction. As when adding and subtracting fractions, the denominator does not change. Children should recognise that 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, will be continuing to explore what a census is, why it is important, and how it helps us learn about people's lives in the past. They will discover why censuses are carried out, what kind of information is collected, and how this data has been gathered and recorded over time. By looking at historical census records, the children will get the chance to compare life in different periods and think about how communities have changed. This topic will help them develop their research skills and deepen their understanding of how historians use evidence to tell the stories of the past.

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.

P.E.

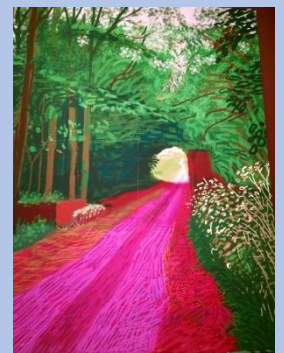
Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school all week. This half term P.E. lessons will usually take place on Mondays. P.E. sessions this half term will be based on gymnastics and hockey.

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 Sargent. 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.



PSHE

We are focused on 'Celebrating Differences' in PSHE. We will be looking at similarities and differences between ourselves and other members of our class, school, community and the world.

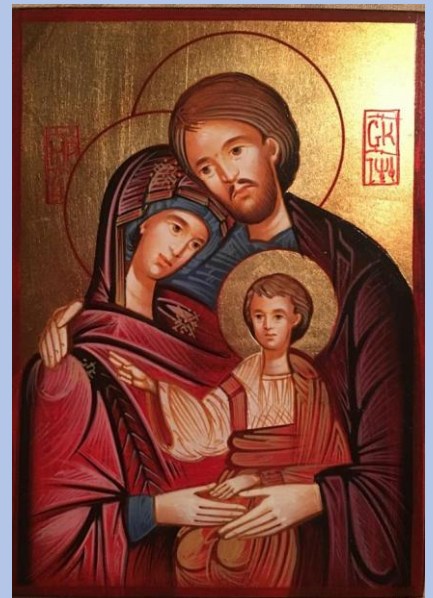
Music

In Music this half term, we will be learning about the legendary musician Stevie Wonder, exploring his life, style, and the joyful messages in his songs. The children will listen to and discuss 'happy songs', thinking carefully about what makes them sound and feel uplifting — from rhythm and melody to lyrics and instruments. We will also be learning to sing and perform Pharrell Williams' song 'Happy', using our voices and movement to express emotion and energy through music.



R.E.

In RE this half term, we will be exploring the question "Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?" In this unit, pupils will learn about the concept of 'incarnation' and how it fits within the big story of the Bible. They will study key texts that recount the story of Jesus' birth and the links Christians make to Old Testament prophecies. Pupils will study and discuss selected texts alongside key Christian beliefs, using theological terms. They will consider the idea of Jesus fulfilling the expectations of the Messiah, within Christian tradition, and consider the importance of this for Christians today.



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

In French, the children will be focusing on the topic of school. In this unit, pupils will learn the nouns and definite articles/determiners for 10 school subjects in the foreign language. They will also learn how to conjugate the verb "to study", an introduction to time and an expansion of opinions. By the end of the unit pupils will have the knowledge and skills to talk about the subjects they like and dislike at school (along with a justification) and at what time/day they study various subjects. This will enable pupils to create more detailed and personalised responses by the end of the unit.

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 diary. 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!

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 are really looking forward to the term ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mr Mitchell and Miss Thompson