

Year 6 Newsletter



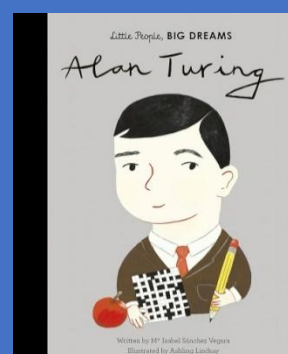
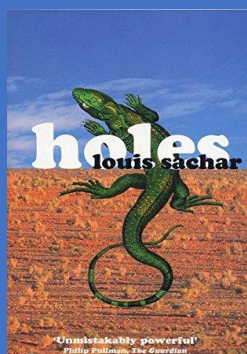
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Spring Term 1:

Monday 5th January 2026
to
Thursday 12th February 2026

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.

In developing our oracy skills we will be learning and performing the classic poem – 'Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll.



"Beware the Jabberwock, my Son."

Maths

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

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

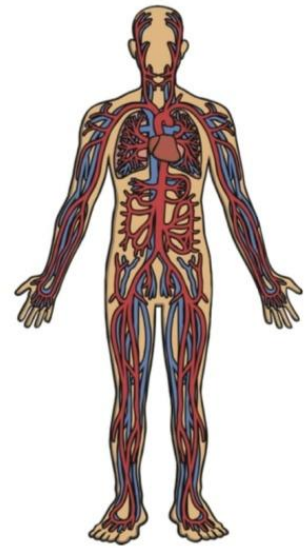
- Understand the rules for the order of operations.
- Solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Use estimates to check answers to calculations.

Throughout year 6 there will also be a strong focus on arithmetic in order to prepare for the SATs.

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 the body functions. We will look at the three main parts of the circulatory system and the job of the heart. The children will 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. In learning about the importance of exercise, the children will 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. To complete the unit, we shall learn about drugs and alcohol and how they can have an impact on our bodies, specifically in relation to the circulatory system.

Your Circulatory System



Research Topic



The theme for our topic is 'Unheard Stories.' In our history lessons for this term, we are discussing which historical figure we believe deserves to be on the face of a banknote. Children will deliver a presentation to their classmates arguing the case for why they feel they have merit. To begin with, we are going to look at a range of historical figures (Elizabeth I, Alfred the Great, William Tuke, Mary Seacole, Betty Boothroyd, Ellen Wilkinson, Lily Parr and Betty Snowball) before researching their own figures from history and making their decision.

In the children's presentations, they will need to include:

- a summary of the person and their lives;
- details on how they gained historical significance,
- and
- which banknote the historical figure merits and why.

Through this work, we hope to answer the following questions: first, can we identify the achievements and legacies of famous historical people, and secondly, how do we evaluate the contributions one person can make?

We will also tie in our history lessons with our Little People, Big Dreams choices for the last half term and will complete work on inspirational heroes that embody the values we share at Aldwyn.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology this term, our focus will be on textiles and we will design and make waistcoats, alongside other items of clothing. We will be generating, developing, modelling and communicating our ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, prototypes and pattern pieces before sewing our waistcoats together with needle, thread and felt.



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.



When creating our images we will be considering:

- 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?

PSHE

We are focused on 'Dreams and Goals' in PSHE this term. The children will share their own strengths and further stretch themselves by setting challenging and realistic goals. They discuss the learning steps they will need to take as well as talking about how to stay motivated to reach their goal. The children will reflect on various global issues and explore places where people may be suffering or living in difficult situations; whilst doing this, they reflect on their own emotions linked to this learning. The children will have the opportunity to discover what they think their classmates like and admire about them, as well as working on giving others praise and compliments.

Music

This half-term, Year 6 will be completing a jazz composition that they will present to the class at the end of the term.

P.E.

P.E. sessions this half term will be based on indoor athletics and dancing - each session will have a focus on developing the children's fitness and agility. This half term P.E. lessons will usually take place on Monday afternoons. 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. Please ensure that your child has their P.E. kit in school with them all week.

R.E.

In R.E., we will be looking at Hinduism with the question: 'Why do Hindus choose to be good?' This will include looking at key Hindu beliefs and the motivations behind moral behaviour in Hinduism. This unit supports pupils in developing an understanding of how religious values, teachings, and worldviews influence personal choices and the desire to live a good life.



Our pupils will begin by learning about karma, the law of cause and effect, which teaches that good or bad actions will have corresponding consequences.

Foreign Languages

This half term, our French topic is about living healthy lifestyles. By the end of this unit pupils will be able to say what they eat and do not eat, and drink and do not drink to stay healthy. They will also learn the language for a variety of physical activities and will be presented with a healthy recipe.

Computing

The focus this term is e-commerce and 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 every day. 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 has 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, alongside TT Rockstars and further online activities.

On Monday 12 January at 6 p.m. we will be hosting a meeting for the parents of Year 6 children to discuss ways in which you can support your child to achieve their potential. SATs booster groups will start shortly and you will receive information about these sessions through Arbor.

Your child will receive spellings each Friday, and will be tested on these the following Friday. Please help your child to practise their spellings at least three times each week. Children will also receive two pieces of homework – one for English and one for maths – each Friday, and we request that the homework is handed back in on the following Thursday to your child’s teacher to check.

Thank-you

We really look forward to the term ahead. A highlight of this half term will be our visit to London and the Houses of Parliament which takes place on Friday 6th February. This is a fantastic trip that provides our children with an unforgettable experience. Further information about the specific arrangements for the day will be shared shortly.

If you need to get in touch, please speak to a member of our team at the classroom door or contact us through admin.

Thank you for your continued support.

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