

Year 6 Newsletter

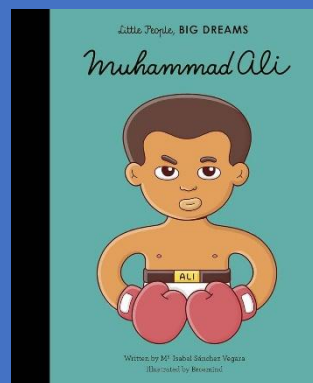


Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Summer Term 1:

Monday 13th April - Friday 22nd May

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



What will we read this half term?

‘The Water Tower’ by Gary Crew and Stephen Woodman

‘Nobody in Preston could remember when the water tower was built, or who had built it, but there it stood on Shooter’s Hill — its iron legs rusted, its egg-shaped tank warped and leaking — casting a long dark shadow across the valley, across Preston itself.’

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 writing extended pieces in class based on ‘The Water Tower,’ we will be recapping and revising common themes which are likely to be on the SATs paper for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

We will also revisit rules and conventions of spellings from Years 3, 4 and 5, such as apostrophe use, and spellings derived from other cultures.

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

In our unit about 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.

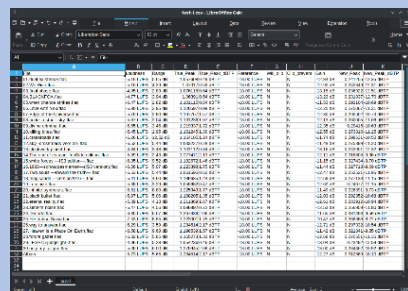
In addition to this, children will learn about the beliefs of the Ancient Greeks, producing fact files about the Greek Gods. Children will then sequence a simple story map of a version of the Trojan War and will explore historical evidence relating to the Trojan War.

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.



Computing

Computing lessons this term will introduce the children to working with spreadsheets. They will be supported in organising data into columns and rows to create their own data sets. We will teach the importance of formatting data to support calculations, while also being introduced to formulas and hopefully will begin to understand how spreadsheets can be used to produce calculated data. In addition to this, we will also work on how to apply formulas that include a range of cells, and apply formulas to multiple cells by duplicating them. Pupils will use spreadsheets to plan an event and answer questions. Finally, they will create charts, and evaluate their results in comparison to questions asked.



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 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 now take place on a Wednesday instead of a Monday (and there may be other lessons depending upon the best opportunity).

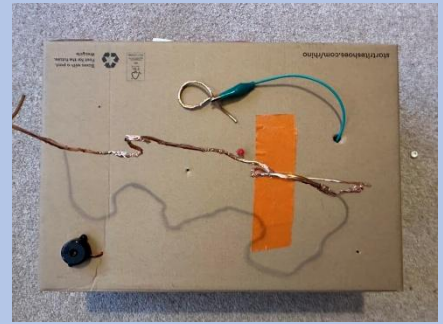
What's really exciting for the last term in Aldwyn for Year 6 is that children will now have the chance to take part in forest school activities for alternating Wednesday afternoons. Miss Thompson's class will start on the first week and then Mr Mitchell's will have the session the following week. When the children are not taking part in forest school, they will have time with the sports coach so your child will need to have the correct gear with them for P.E. and forest school every Wednesday. You should have had an email through from Arbor with details on the correct clothing to bring on the day.

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.

Art/Design + Technology

For our final unit in design and technology, we shall be using our knowledge of electricity in order to make our own steady hand games. Our children will be designing a game to test hand control. Electricity will only flow if a circuit is in a continuous, unbroken loop. Once the wire of a handle makes contact with a loop, then a circuit will be complete – causing an electrical device such as a buzzer to work. The idea behind our steady hand game is that we will try not to make a circuit, so that a buzzer doesn't make a sound or a bulb doesn't light up. A platform for the box can be made out of cardboard.



French

This half term our French topic is all about hobbies we engage in at the weekend (reading, shopping, playing games, going swimming, etc). The children will develop their French conversation skills by asking different questions about their favourite activities, translating French texts 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. This is in addition to TT Rockstars, Interactive Resources and many others.

You may also find the following websites useful:

'Guardians Of Mathematica' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn2y7nb>

'Crystal Explorers' (SPAG) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbm8scw>

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. Miss Thompson and Mr Bonsall's boosters will continue to be on a Monday and Mr Mitchell's will be on a Wednesday. The focus for all boosters is maths.

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 Tuesday mornings from 8 a.m., in which we look at past papers online. We have additional booster groups at dinnertimes on Mondays and Fridays.

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, Miss Thompson, and the Year 6 team