

Year 6 Newsletter



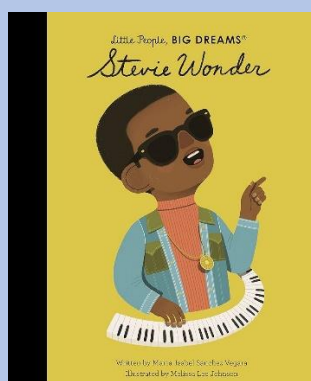
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 1

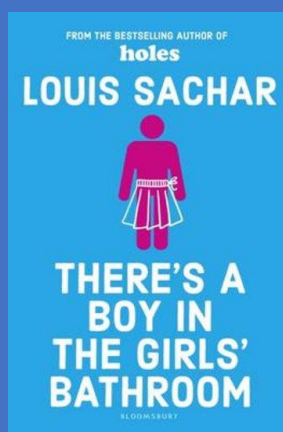
Friday 4th September 2026
to
Friday 23rd October 2026

Theme – Finding Your Way

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.

'The Barnabus Project' by The Brothers Fan

Meet Barnabus. Half mouse. Half elephant.

In a world of Perfect Pets. Barnabus is not quite perfect and is kept out of sight... until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure.

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 two novels, 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.

Oracy

We are just about ready to start a fantastic book by Louis Sachar: 'There's A Boy In The Girls Bathroom.' The story is about a boy named Bradley Chalkers, who is troubled at school, but finds acceptance through a school councillor. Bradley struggles with the belief that no-one likes him, but we see that - through positive guidance and good friendship - children can find self-worth and grow. Our Oracy focus this half term asks the question - What is the most important lesson that Bradley learns?

Maths

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

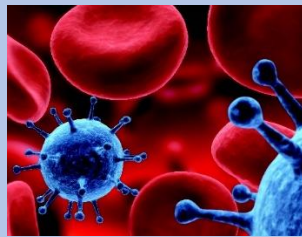
Number: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

- understand the rules for the order of operations
- solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- use estimates to check answers to calculations

Children will look at common structures and how numbers are related when you add and multiply. They will use the part-whole model, solve calculations with missing addends and solve addition calculations mentally using known facts. They will use arithmetic properties, inverse relationships and place value understanding.

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

This term's unit for research is all about local history and the children will be looking at the census and the census through time. What can we learn about people through reading the census? What does it tell you about jobs and the role of men and women? We will then take this information and look towards our local area – who lived in our local area in the past? How can we find out about these people by looking at the census?

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.

PSHE

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

Tameside’s ‘Safe Squad’ will come into school during Year 6 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 learning basic keyboard skills 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 in school all week. This half term P.E. lessons will mainly take place on Wednesday mornings. 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. Woodland exploring sessions will also be taking place on alternative Wednesdays – Miss Thompson’s class will have the session for the first full week back, then Mr Mitchell’s class will take part the week after and so on.

In addition to this, Bikeability – a cycling proficiency course for the 21st Century – has been booked for the Year 6's for November and December. This is open to all Year 6's – those who can ride a bike and those who cannot. Mr. Mitchell's class will be taking the course on the 30th November and 1st December and Miss Thompson's class will be taking the course on the 2nd and 3rd but we will be asking children to sign up as soon as possible this term if they would like to take part. Further information about this excellent opportunity will be coming soon.

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 towns – this will include the different names for shops and directions. We will learn vocabulary for areas within towns and cities, and then label drawings. Then we will learn some vocabulary for the things we might find and prepositions so we can describe where they are. We will write sentences to describe towns 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 two pieces of homework each Friday – 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.

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. We have given the children these log-in details on a card that they can bring home for additional support and revision.

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, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Schofield and Mrs. Kennedy