Year 6 Newsletter

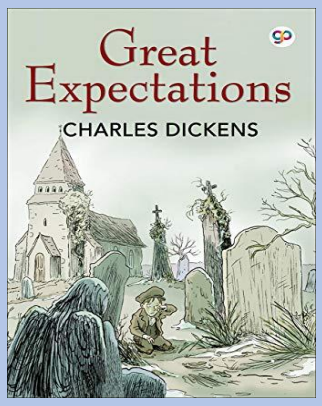
Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

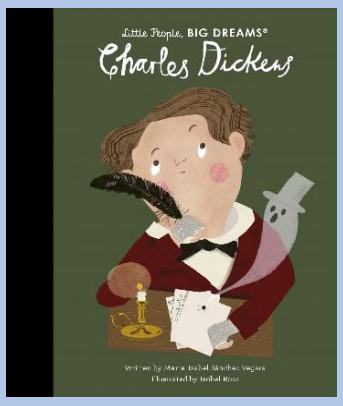
Autumn Term 2

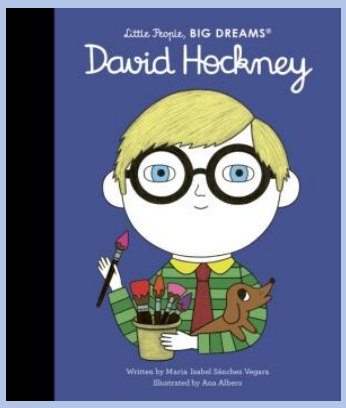
Monday 2nd November
to
Friday 18th December 2026

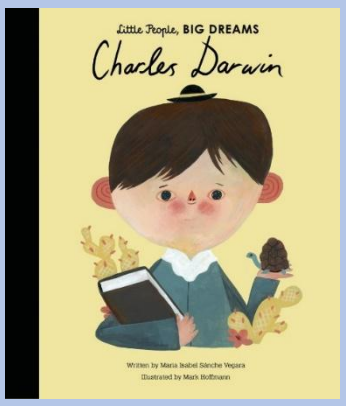
Theme – Finding Your Way
Little People, Big Dreams Focus: David Hockney & Charles Darwin

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.

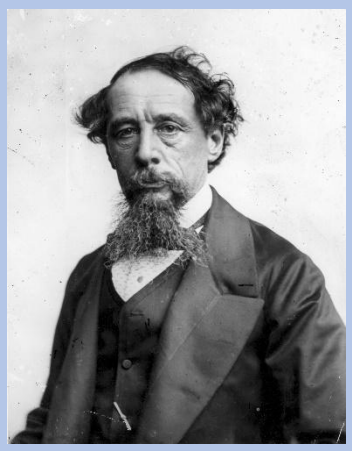
We shall be looking at the life of Charles Dickens in detail, and writing our own biographies based on his fascinating life. In addition to this, we will be writing our own character studies.

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. Children will develop a wide range of problem-solving strategies and be supported in using efficient and logical methods to organise and record their work.

Throughout this term, pupils will build on their understanding of additive structures by exploring equivalence in addition equations. They will learn how redistribution can be used to support calculation with whole numbers and decimals. Pupils will calculate missing parts in balanced equations, applying known facts and strategies in a variety of contexts. They will then go on to explore equivalence and compensation in subtraction.

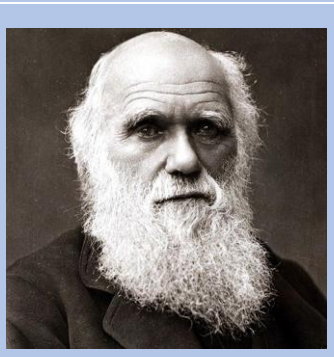
Following this, we will move on to subtraction, focusing on difference and how increasing or decreasing the whole (minuend) and known part (subtrahend) affects the difference. Children will apply their growing understanding of number relationships and calculation strategies to solve problems in a range of real-life and mathematical contexts. This work will help them develop confidence when working with larger numbers and deepen their understanding of equivalence and mathematical reasoning.

Alongside this, we will continue to develop fluency through our Mastering Number work, helping children to strengthen their number sense, build confidence in mental and written calculations, and apply their mathematical understanding with accuracy, flexibility and resilience. Our aim is for all pupils to become increasingly independent mathematicians who enjoy tackling challenges and explaining their thinking.

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. The children 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.

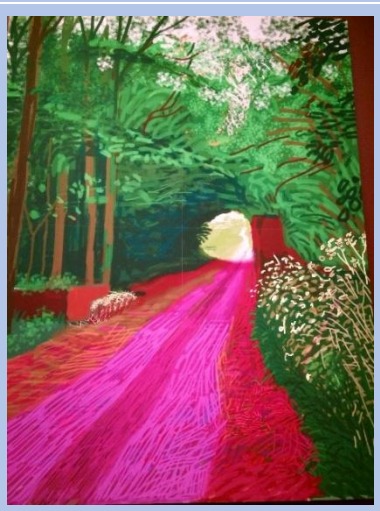
This half term P.E. lessons will be based on gymnastics, balancing and hockey. As already communicated with you, there are some weeks where we will be having PE/Woodland Explorers on a Tuesday instead of Wednesday so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school all week.

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 Sergeant. We will 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 hos life and work in more detail.



SEAL, PSHE

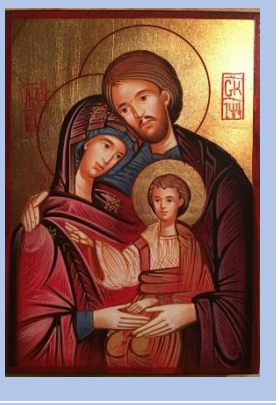
We are focused on ‘Celebrating Differences’ in PSHE. We will be looking at similarities and differences between ourselves and other members of our class, school, community and the world.

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 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 access to 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.

Don't forget that your children also have log-ins for the following online platforms to work on at home:

- TT Rockstars (times-tables)
- SPAG.com
- Maths.co.uk
- EdShed (for spelling)
- Guardians Of Mathematica (maths)
- Crystal Explorers (for SPAG)

Thank you

We really look forward to the term ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mr Mitchell and Miss Thompson