

Year 6RB

Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of Term 5 –
Friday 27th May

Start of Term 6 –
Monday 6th June

Parent-Teacher Conferences –
Thursday 30th June and
Tuesday 5th July

English

At the end of the spring term, RB6 attended a theatre production of Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift at the Unicorn Theatre. Inspired by the play, we began to write and illustrate our own miniature books for 'Lilliputians'. We will begin this new term by completing our miniature books and sharing them with the class.

In Summer 1, the class will continue to read Hamlet by William Shakespeare. We will learn some of the well-known speeches from this famous play, such as Hamlet's celebrated speech "To be, or not to be", or the discovery of the skull "Alas, poor Yorick". We will be using our knowledge of direct speech to record dialogue and to recount events in the play, and will also write a diary entry in the role of one of the characters.

We will then move on to read a biographical text about the life of the Antarctic explorer, Ernest Shackleton. We will read Shackleton's Journey by William Grill and our written work will include diary entries and letter writing. We will also examine the recent discovery of the wreck of Shackleton's ship, the Endurance, and the scientific exploration that made this discovery possible.

Grammar

This term in Grammar, the class will be reviewing the rules for distinguishing between the four different types of sentence, punctuating direct speech and how to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. They will learn how to use synonyms and antonyms as well as how to provide reasons for events in their writing, using increasingly sophisticated sentence structures. In their daily English language homework, they will continue to consolidate knowledge such as how to use the apostrophes of possession and contraction correctly and the use of conjunctions.

Spelling

Spelling tests will continue to be on Tuesday mornings. The children will be given a list of 20 words to learn each week. Some of the spelling rules we will be learning this term involve using easily confused suffixes (-able, -ible), silent letters and homophones.

British History

This term, we will be studying The Abolition of the Slave Trade. We will be going on a class trip to The Museum of London Docklands where we will be visiting the 'London, Sugar and Slavery' exhibit. Through our museum visit, as well as our classroom learning, we will be discovering more about the sugar trade from 1600 to the present day and the changing face of the London docklands. We will be learning about the abolitionist movement focussing particularly on Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce.

Key vocabulary: Triangular Trade, legal, illegal, cargo, petition, Middle Passage, abolitionist, lecture, campaign, colony.

We will then move on to study the Great Exhibition, which was opened in 1851 by Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. The Great Exhibition included displays of technology and art from Britain and around the world. Throughout the early nineteenth century, Britain was the first nation to undergo a process which historians call the Industrial Revolution. During this time, many people moved from rural to urban areas to work in newly built factories. We will also study the process which shaped and defined the 'political nation' we see and know today.

Key vocabulary: industry, technology, steam engine, invention, British Empire, colony, philanthropist, legacy, Prime Minister, Member of Parliament (MP), House of Commons, franchise, enfranchise, demographic, universal suffrage, suffragists, suffragettes.

Ancient History

We will continue our study of ancient Rome by consolidating our learning about Julius Caesar by writing a recount of the events leading up to his downfall and death. We will then move on to study the Roman army, focussing particularly upon their equipment, discipline and tactics.

Key vocabulary: traitor, jealous, undisputed leader, dictator perpetuo, assassin, betrayal, infantry, legions, legionaries, centuries, centurions, scutum (rectangular shield), pilum (javelin), pugio (dagger), gladius (short stabbing sword).

Science

During the first half of the summer term, the children will continue to study biology. They will continue to learn about adaptation and evolution and specification. Referring to some of the key scientists in the field.

In the second half of term, the children will continue to be studying physics. Topics include the Solar System and celestial objects, especially the planets.

Vocabulary: speciation, adaptation, natural selection, evolution, universe, galaxies, earth, moons, comets, asteroids, orbits, black holes.

Maths

In the Summer term children will study:

Fractions, decimals, percentages

- Calculate percentages of amounts.
- Recall and use equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Algebra

- Express missing number problems algebraically.
- Use simple formulae.
- Generate and describe simple linear equations.

Measurements

- Solve problems involving the calculation and conversion of different units of measure.
- Convert between miles and km.
- Recognise that shapes with the same perimeters can have different areas and vice versa.
- Calculate, compare and estimate volumes of cubes and cuboids using cm^3 and m^3 .

Geometry

- Recognise and describe 3D shape using their nets.
- Draw 2D shapes using given dimensions and angles.
- Find unknown angles in triangles, quadrilaterals and regular polygons.
- Describe positions on a full coordinate grid.
- Translate and reflect shapes on a full coordinate grid.

Statistics

- Interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs and use them to solve problems.
- Calculate mean as average.

Key vocabulary: Equivalent, simplify, reduce, cancel, factors, multiples, per cent, area, perimeter, net, compound shape, quadrilateral, regular polygon, quadrants, origin, x-axis, y-axis, translate, reflect, symmetrical, mean, volume, capacity, formulae, knowns, unknowns, algebraic expression/equation.

Geography

During the first half of the term, the children will be focusing on human geography: learning about settlement, site of settlement, land use and migration. They will be comparing and contrasting various topics. They will also be refining their map work skills on a global scale.

During the second half of the summer term, the children will be still be focusing on human geography: they will be focusing on international development and improving development, international trade and the importance of caring for our environment.

Vocabulary: settlement, site factors, rural, population, urban, immigration, emigration, conurbation, densely populated, sparsely populated, economy, exports, imports, trading bloc, tax, environment, conservation, natural resource, renewable energy.

PSHE

This term, children in Year 6 will have opportunities to discuss the similarities between primary and secondary schools, both in terms of their functions and in terms of students' experiences. Children will discuss the changes and challenges associated with the transition to secondary school. They will discuss possible approaches to these challenges and agree to work their way through them in more detail over the coming weeks, but are reassured that the challenges are ones that so many children before them have faced and overcome. Furthermore, children will discuss worries about losing existing friends, and build strategies for making new friends in the future.

Religious Education

This term, we will be learning about Christianity, drawing on our knowledge of the Bible from the autumn term. We will explore what Christians believe about God, how they believe in treating others, and how Christians worship and differ in their practices.

Key vocabulary: Christianity, Christian, Messiah, resurrect, eternal, monotheist, Trinity, creator, omnipotent, commandment, worship, church, Sabbath, Communion, Eucharist, Mass, priest, minister, pulpit, lectern, denomination, worship, ritual.

PE

This term, we will be focussing on striking & fielding, more specifically in cricket. We will be concentrating on the various intricacies involved in bowling, batting and fielding. This includes catching and throwing, hand-eye coordination, positioning and teamwork.

Our KS2 Sports Day will take place on Monday 11th July at Battersea Park Millennium Arena.