

# Year 6RB

## Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



### KEY DATES

End of term 3 –  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
February

Start of term 4 –  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup>  
February

Parent-Teacher Conferences –  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March

## English

This term in English, the class will continue to read Geraldine McCaughrean's retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*. Homer was a poet who lived approximately 2,800 years ago in ancient Greece. The *Odyssey* tells the story of Odysseus' journey home from Troy, which takes him ten years. Travelling in boats with his companions, Odysseus has many exciting and terrifying adventures, meeting exotic people, monsters, gods, goddesses and witches. All that our hero wants, however, is to return home to his son, Telemachus, and to his faithful wife, Penelope, who believes that her husband is still alive and who therefore refuses to remarry. As well as reading the tale and exploring the ambitious vocabulary it contains, children will write recounts from Odysseus' perspective. This will give them the opportunity to practise using techniques such as extended noun phrases, rhetorical questions and similes. We will continue to work on comprehension questions and creative writing tasks based around the tale.

After we complete *Odyssey*, we will move on to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

## Grammar

This term in Grammar, the class will be reviewing the key concepts of clauses and sentences. They will explore how to write about events which happen in order, and will learn how to provide reasons for events in their writing. In their daily English language homework, they will continue to consolidate knowledge such as how to use capital letters correctly, and the differences between vowels and consonants.

## 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 a suffix or prefix, identifying homophones and the spelling rules for plurals.

## British History

This term in British history, we will begin by studying George III and The American Revolution. We will use the text to practise comprehension and vocabulary skills, and to complete creative writing tasks.

Vocabulary: monarch, enlightenment, colony, imperialism, colonialism, patriotic, indigenous

We will then move on to learning about The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars.

## Ancient History

We will continue our study of ancient Rome by learning more about Julius Caesar. We will focus particularly on the siege of Alesia and the defeat of Vercingetorix; Caesar crossing the Rubicon and its consequences; Caesar in Egypt and Cleopatra. We will also learn about the death of Caesar.

Vocabulary: siege, symbol, traitor, jealous, undisputed leader, assassin, betrayal

## Geography

In Year 6, the children will continue revising and expanding the geographical knowledge they learned last year, with a particular focus on developing their knowledge of important locations from across the world.

We begin with learning about different parts of a river (upper, middle and lower) and rivers of the world. Then, we will move onto climate and climate zones of the world and learn how to interpret climate graphs.

## Science

During the first half of the spring term, the children will study biology. They will begin by learning about different body systems and how they work together. Later, they will learn about individual organs and organ systems including the nose, mouth and the skin.

In the second half of term, the children will continue studying biology, learning about the eyes, muscles and the components of blood.

## PSHE

Year 6 will begin the term by continuing to learn about careers and understanding the role of education in preparing them for their futures. They will consider how 'big goals' can be achieved through 'little steps', and explore the role of resilience and perseverance in allowing them to achieve those 'big goals'. They will then go on to study the lives of people who have made significant contributions to, and perhaps even changed, the world. As they do this, they will discuss with their classes the character traits on which these figures relied.

## PE

This term, we will be introducing hockey. This will focus around hand-eye co-ordination, teamwork and communication. We will also be looking at the difference between attacking and defending.

## Maths

In the spring term, the children will study:

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages

- Review factors, common factors, common multiples, square, cube and prime numbers
- Use common factors to simplify fractions and use common multiples to find common denominators
- Add and subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers
- Compare and order fractions including mixed numbers
- Multiply pairs of proper fractions and divide fractions by whole numbers
- Calculate fractions and percentages of amounts
- Convert fractions, decimals and percentages from one form to another

## Religious Education

We begin the term by continuing our study of Judaism, learning in particular about Shabbat and about Jewish beliefs about the Messiah. We then move on to study Christianity. Drawing on our knowledge of the Bible from the autumn term, we explore what Christians believe about God, and discover how Christians vary in their beliefs and practices.

## Music

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of pitch, pulse and rhythm with exercises and games while also learning to sing songs of ABRSM Grade 6 difficulty. We will continue putting our music theory knowledge into practice as we compose our own rhythms and melodies. This term we will also be learning about some of the instruments of the orchestra and listening analytically to pieces of music written for orchestra.