



Year 6 curriculum newsletter — Autumn 2024

Our themes this term are: 'The Ancient Maya' and 'Energy and Electricity'

Books we will be learning about

Autumn 1 – The Rainplayer – *David Wisniewski*
 History in infographics—*Jonathon Vipond*
 Autumn 2 – Windrush Children – *Benjamin Zephaniah*



English

This term in English, we will write in a variety of different genres, including a character description, newspaper reports and short essays.

Maths

Children will extend their understanding of the number system and place value to include larger numbers. They will develop the connections between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. Pupils will also develop their ability to solve a wide range of problems, which demand efficient written and mental methods of calculation.

Science

The human body – Children will build on their knowledge and understanding of different systems within the body. They will research the parts and functions of the circulatory system. They will focus on how nutrients are transported around the human body.

Electricity – In this unit, we will identify and name the different parts of a circuit, before exploring what affects the voltage. We will then apply our knowledge of conductors and insulators into our own scientific investigation.

RE

What might the journey of life and death look like from a Christian perspective? – Children will explore how life is a journey, what rite of passage is within the Christian faith and milestones people go through in their lives.

How would Christians advertise Christmas? – Children will compare different Christian beliefs about the birth of Jesus, drawing upon the different Gospel accounts and being aware of how different accounts have come about. Children will also ask questions about the real meaning of Christmas.

Art and Design Technology

Our first topic is 'Make your voice heard', where we will explore expressive drawing techniques and symbolism. We will also learn about the drawing technique 'chiaroscuro'.

In Design Technology, we will apply our science learning into planning and making an electronic steady-hand game.

History – 'How am I making history?'

In this unit, we will be learning about the remarkable achievements of the ancient Maya. Through a variety of activities, children will learn about the Maya perspective of time, religion, writing, maths and the environment. In doing so, we should begin to see the stark contrast between our own history and that of the Maya.

Geography – 'Where does energy come from?'

In this topic, we start by thinking about why energy is important, before learning about the benefits and drawbacks of different energy sources. We will then consider how energy is generated in the United Kingdom and USA before collecting and presenting data on where the best place would be in the school to position a solar panel.

Computing

Children will focus on safety and also on digital literacy. We will also be using Purple Mash to learn how to code, developing our coding sticks and designing and creating a complex game that includes times and scores.

Music

Children will be learning about music inspired by the Ancient Maya civilization. They will also continue to learn a brass instrument

Personal, Social, Health, Economic

We will share our goals and aspirations for the year ahead. Children will develop their personal and social skills through the topics of creating a happy and caring classroom and friendship.

Your child's PE days are:

Wednesdays and Fridays

Important information:

Homework

We will set homework later this half-term and will use Google Classroom. It will be set on a Friday and due in by Tuesday.

Snacks and lunchtime

Please provide healthy snacks for play time; no crisps, chocolate, sesame or nuts

Uniform

Please see the [website](#) for correct uniform

Parent Hub

Please make sure you are signed up for [ParentHub](#) – this is our preferred communication method.

Brass

Brass lessons will continue to be on Thursdays this year, and will begin on the 19th September.

If there is a concern

Please do encourage your child to tell a member of staff if something is worrying them. If this cannot be resolved, arrange an appointment to see the class teacher by contacting the school office.