

Curriculum Statements – Year 6

Term 1 – Revolution

Are you listening, boy? What is 27 plus 45? Come on – faster now, we haven't got all day! Find out about super-strict schools by travelling back in time to a Victorian classroom. Make sure you're on your best behaviour though as punishments are unquestionably terrible! Discover a time when great minds thought new thoughts and ingenious inventors created so many things we take for granted today: the electric light bulb, the telephone and even the first flushing loo!

Full steam ahead to the Victorian age!

This term the children will be researching a time when Victoria was Queen and Albert was Prince Consort; when some people lived in slums while others prospered.

Linked to this topic we will also explore the life and discoveries of Charles Darwin, covering his theory of evolution and his many amazing discoveries on the Galapagos Islands.

English: In English the children will be writing descriptive settings and character studies, learning to use adjectives, adverbs and other descriptive devices effectively. In grammar we will be looking at the various components of a sentence including: adjectives, adverbs, pronouns and determiners. We will also be exploring a wide range of antonyms and synonyms.

Maths: In maths they will be particularly focusing on number this term, including: the reading, writing and ordering numbers to 10,000,000, investigating factors, multiples, square, prime and triangle numbers and using formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Term 2 – Hola Mexico

Welcome to Mexico! Get ready to explore this unique country, from its towering temples and stunning geography to its pulsing rhythms and fun-packed festivals. Tummy rumbling? Concoct a traditional fruit cocktail or delicious Mexican meal. What's on your shopping list? Go steady with the spices! Discover the mysterious world of the ancient Maya civilisation. Make their chocolate, learn their poetry, play their ballgame and follow all their curious rituals. Just try to keep your head! Feel like celebrating? Design a flute, grab a drum, join a tribe and make some noise! Have you got what it takes to be chief? Let's find out...

This term the children will explore the continent of South America and contrast this with Europe. In science they will learn about light and shadow, focusing particularly on the way that light travels including the effects of reflection and refraction.

English: In English the children will be writing non-chronological reports linked to the Mayan civilization as well as an adventure story and a leaflet about chocolate making. The grammar topics for this term will be: conjunctions, prepositions and modal verbs.

Maths: In maths the children will be refining skills in mental calculation, including with decimal numbers. They will be revising their previous understanding of area and extending this by learning to find the area of parallelograms and triangles. Fractions will be revisited

and the children will learn to simplify fractions, find common denominators and explore the equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Term 3 – A Child’s War

A siren sounds, a building crumbles, a Spitfire zooms overhead. Take cover! It’s 1939 and Britain is at war. Deep down in the Anderson shelter, learn why nations are fighting and why child evacuees must make the long journey from their homes and families into unknown territory.

And, as peace is declared, let’s get ready to celebrate. Mr Churchill says ‘It’s an unconditional surrender!’

This term the children will experience what it was like to be evacuated during World War Two. Our learning in history will particularly focus on the ability to empathise with people from the past whilst examining different types, of historical evidence to support understanding. The children will have the opportunity to buy rations, take part in 1940’s style lessons and much more...

English: In English this term much of the writing will be linked to our topic. The children will write extended journals exploring different aspects of their life as an evacuee. This will include the use of emotive language, powerful description and reflection. In grammar they will study tense and verb forms, the use of a wide range of high level punctuation and levels of formality in writing.

Maths: In maths this term the children will learn to interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs. They will also learn to calculate and interpret the mean as an average. Calculation skills will include multiplying and dividing numbers by powers of 10 and revisiting the formal methods for multiplication and division, including in the area of problem solving.

Term 4 – Blood Heart

Crimson, scarlet, burgundy, cherry...blood flows through our bodies in all its vibrant shades of red. Let’s explore our circulation system! Now surgeons don’t be squeamish as we dissect an animal heart and examine the veins, arteries and chambers up close. They all work hard to move blood around our bodies. William Harvey was fascinated with anatomy and made ground-breaking discoveries about valves. What might we uncover?

This term the children will be finding out how to keep their hearts happy with cardiovascular exercise and healthy food. They will also be considering the damage that can be done through factors such as a healthy diet, smoking and drinking alcohol.

In addition to this, the children will be exploring vital questions including: Who am I? Where do I come from? What are my strengths? What have I inherited from my parents? This term we will be answering these questions as the children become detectives to explore exactly what it is that makes them who they are.

The children will be learning to view themselves as individuals and explore all the characteristics and traits that help to make them a unique human being. During the topic they will be investigating the classification of living things; looking in particular at

microorganisms and how these are both a help and hindrance in everyday life. They will be exploring their own local area and making contrasts between this and other parts of the world.

English: This term our writing will be based around a courtroom scenario. The children will explore a crime scene; write police reports, a detective story and a newspaper report linked to the case. In grammar we will be learning to use the passive voice, varied sentence structures for effect and direct and reported speech.

Maths: In term 4 the children study 2D shapes, learning to recognise and accurately draw these. They will also describe and build 3D shapes. Additionally, they will study coordinates and learn to use these in a four quadrant grid. Mental calculation will be revisited alongside the use of all four operations for problem solving.

Term 5 – Frozen Kingdom

Welcome to the planet's coldest lands... vast wilds, hostile territories, incredible beauty yet often deadly. Take shelter from the elements or fall prey to icy winds and deepest chill. Trek bravely and valiantly across treacherous terrain to the ends of the Earth, treading deep in snow or pulled by a team of might sled dogs.

The children will research facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and eco-systems. They will discover the danger of icebergs and compare this unique environment to other parts of the planet that they have learned about.

English: Our speaking, listening and writing focus for this term will be argument and debate, where the children will be encouraged to put across their views in a clear and organised manner using appropriate persuasive devices. In addition we will be learning about bibliographical writing, focusing on the explorer Sir Robert Scott. Our grammar focus for this term will be to revise all previously learnt concepts ready for the SAT tests.

Maths: The children will continue to develop their use of formal written methods of calculation and begin to master the use of these in a range of contexts across the curriculum. Coordinates will be used again, this time in the context of carrying out the accurate translation of shapes. The children will further develop understanding of units of measure, particularly being able to convert between these using both fraction and decimal notation.

Term 6 – Gallery Rebels

Colours collide, melting together on the canvas: an impression of light, a rage of red, a lobster perched on a telephone... Come and find out about the bizarre and eccentric minds of the gallery rebels! Art can be an act of rebellion. Can you change the world with a paintbrush, a thought, or an idea?

Take up your arms and fight for the cause...Paintbrushes and sketch books at the ready - let's make art!

This term the children will experience the opportunity to create abstract art. They will study the styles of famous artists including Jackson Pollock. They will also consider what art means

to them, learning to consider the work of famous artists and express their own thoughts and opinions of these.

English: Children will be particularly focusing on the drama and performance aspects of the English curriculum this term as they begin to practise their leaver's production. They will also be writing spooky stories and play scripts. Specific grammar teaching will be less of a focus this term, as the children are encouraged to ensure that their writing is completely grammatically correct by applying the skills of checking and editing.

Maths: Our final term will see the children consolidating their mathematical skills, particularly in the area of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, ready for their transition to secondary schools. They will also continue to develop skills in ratio and proportion and algebra. These skills will be developed through the use of 'real' life fun situations such as the planning of a theme park.

YEAR 6

LITERACY

Daily Lesson

During each daily English lesson, children will begin the lesson working as a whole class, with the teacher on a shared reading or writing session. Some groups will then continue to work with the teacher on a reading or writing task whilst other groups will work independently on work planned to meet their individual needs.

Reading

Most children in Upper Key Stage Two can read fluently and confidently. During years five and six we begin to focus more on the key skills of reading, including the use of inference and deduction to explore the motivations and feelings of characters and authorial intent to investigate how authors use different techniques to engage the reader. Regular reading at home remains a priority in Upper Key Stage Two. Please continue to use the Reading Record Book to record which pages they have read to you, to mention any difficulties which they had and to ask us any questions. Make sure that your child brings their book bag (with book and reading record!) to school every day. Children who read regularly at home are rewarded at school with a 'cinema ticket' at the end of term. This allows them to take part in a choice of activity with their friends, who have also read regularly, during the last week of term at school.

Writing

Continuing their journey as a writer in Upper Key Stage Two means that children are encouraged to apply their skills not only in Literacy lessons, but in all lessons across the curriculum and whenever they write – including at home. Please continue to support and encourage your child in their writing; it is important that the children feel motivated to write and are proud of their work, therefore a little praise and encouragement can go a long way. Spelling and grammar continue to be a priority in Upper Key Stage Two, the demands of the new curriculum mean that grammar in particular is taught at a much higher level than previously. If you have any questions or require any advice about the work that your child is undertaking, then please do not hesitate to contact us when we will be happy to help.

Guided Reading

In addition to our Literacy lessons, we have a time everyday which is dedicated to reading and writing activities. This session involves the children working on reading skills, initially as a whole class with the teacher, and then in smaller groups focusing on differentiated tasks to help them develop at a level appropriate to their ability.

Maths

We continue to have a daily maths lesson, which will include mental strategies and formal written methods. The children are taught within their year groups – two groups for year 5 and two groups for year 6, and will learn a variety of strategies to work out different tasks and problems.

Throughout the year children will cover:

- The number system and place value including fractions and algebra
- Geometry – including 2D and 3D shape
- Statistics
- Measurement (including time)
- Fractions

SATs

Throughout year 6 the children will be familiarised with the kinds of questions that they might meet in SAT test for reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Opportunities for practising these questions will be given at various points throughout the year; if you have any concerns or questions regarding the SATs then please do not hesitate to speak to us.

TARGETS

Children will have targets in reading, writing and maths. Please ask and encourage them to continue to work on these at home.

HOME LEARNING

At the beginning of term your child will be given a variety of home learning tasks, related to this term's topic, to choose from. One of these should be chosen and worked on, over the course of the term, at home and brought into school at the end of term. We hold an 'open evening' at the end of every long term and invite parents to come into school to share and celebrate in the children's hard work.

Every week your child will also bring home either a piece of literacy or numeracy home learning. This will be handed out on a Friday and must be returned by the following Wednesday.

They will also have weekly spellings and 'Learn-Its' to learn. Please give your child the time and support to work on their home learning at home. We value your contribution with helping your child.