

Year 6 Curriculum Spring 1 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Durham and Edinburgh University have had an exciting term carrying out a historical study of the Roman Invasion of Britain. The highlight of the term so far has been the Shakespeare Schools' Festival where the children put on a wonderful performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The theme we will be following during the next half term is 'Darwin' in which we will be studying Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution.

Darwin



In Year 6, there will be a strong focus on reading, to improve vocabulary next term. We will be reading the terrific text 'Skellig' by David Almond.

English 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at short stories and their key features • Looking at what makes a good short story. • Looking at autobiographies and their key features. • Exploring discussion texts and their key features. .
Mathematics 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at the four mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) • Applying the four operations to decimal numbers, percentages and fractions • Looking at reasoning questions and understanding mathematic vocabulary used in test questions.
Science 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at animals and humans in relation to evolution • Learning about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. • Looking at how various animal / human features have evolved over millions of years.
Geography 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning through fieldwork and research • Exploring the effects that rivers have on the landscape. • Looking at the components of the water cycle. • Studying the characteristics of a river system in other parts of the world.
Music	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring tempo, texture, structure, duration and appropriate musical notation. • building an understanding of musical composition. • organising and manipulating ideas with musical structures. • listening to music with attention to detail and recalling sounds with increasing musical memory.

P.E 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing our techniques in gymnastics. • developing flexibility, strength, control and balance. • exploring gymnastic sequences
I.C.T and Computing 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring computer networks including the internet and how they can provide multiple services. • learning how to use technology safely.
R.E 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focusing on the different views of creation • comparing and contrasting the common themes within creation stories • discussing important issues about the environment.
P.S.H.E and Citizenship 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussing the people within our community • discussing gangs and how to stay safe • exploring the effects of violence in the community
Art 	We will be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving mastery of art and developing art and design techniques • exploring the rural and/ or urban landscape as a starting point for two-dimensional work • recording observations through drawing and photography • using shape, form, space, colour, texture and pattern to develop and communicate their ideas in a painting

Here are some ways that you can help your child at home:

- Read daily for at least 20 minutes.
- Ask them questions about the text they have read to test their understanding.
- Encourage your child to look up new words they come across; ensuring access to a dictionary or online dictionary will help with this.
- Complete the CPG books in preparation for their SATs.
- Support them to complete their homework and hand it in on time. Homework is always due on a Tuesday.
- Practise their multiplication tables at home, in the car or any spare time you have. If they know their tables really well, test them on division and multiplication.

Other books they might enjoy that link to their topic are:

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman

Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, his revolutionary tract on evolution and the fundamental ideas involved, in 1859. Nearly 150 years later, the theory of evolution continues to create tension between the scientific and religious communities. This same debate raged within Darwin himself, and played an important part in his marriage: his wife, Emma, was quite religious, and her faith gave Charles a lot to think about as he worked on a theory that continues to spark intense debates.

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She soon discovers an exotic world bursting with new experiences.

Wish all our families a relaxing Christmas break and we look forward to the children returning for the New Year. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

The Year 6 Team