



Year 6 Newsletter



Autumn Term 2 2024/25

We hope that you all had a wonderful half term. This newsletter will provide you with information on the half term ahead. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Year 6 Team:		Jo Barnes – supporting throughout Year 6
6LM		Laura McPherson
6MS		Mandy Starnes
6SB		Samantha Beeton

Dates for the diary: Wednesday 6th November: Royal Albert Hall
Monday 9th December: JCS Trip

History - Our topic this half term is Ancient Greece, where we will be answering our 'Big Question' – 'How did the Ancient Greeks impact out modern world?'

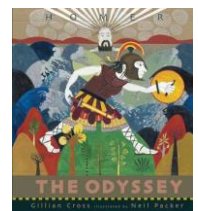
In this unit, children will learn that our modern world owes a lot to the Ancient Greeks. They are to thank for many ideas and inventions (e.g. the Olympic games, Ancient Greek theatres, architecture, literature and many more). Exploring the theme of social equality, children will learn that when political elections come around, we can thank the Ancient Greeks for inventing the idea of democracy. They will explore rich avenues of enquiry to discover what else we can thank the Ancient Greek for today and investigate how their legacy continues to influence our daily lives and the modern world.



You should have already received this term's **topic homework and knowledge organiser** via email.

Additionally, these will be shared on your child's Google Classroom page. If you would like a paper version, your child can ask their class teacher.

English - For the first half term, children in Year 6 will be reading 'The Odyssey' by Gillian Cross. Throughout this unit of work, the sequence of lessons will take children on an adventure with the greatest of heroes - Odysseus - as he battles great monsters, gods and mortals on his voyage home to Ithaca. Through the sequence, the children will discover multiple reasons to make a speech: to make a proclamation, for persuasive purposes, and for personal reflection. They will write in role as Odysseus himself, as well as record dialogue and their own take on a key scene in the style of the author. Following research into the Greek Gods and a variety of ancient Greek monsters, the children will complete the sequence by writing their own epic adventure story based on their own invented character who encounters multiple trials on their journey home.. In addition, in our guided reading sessions, we will explore Mythologica: An encyclopedia of gods, monsters and mortals from ancient Greece by Dr Stephen Kershaw.



Reading – One of the most effective ways you can support your child with their academic progress and development, is through reading together regularly. Your child will receive a book from school which they should look after, and bring into school each day.

Children should be reading at home each day, preferably with an adult, for 20 minutes. Please sign your child's reading record each day to show they are reading regularly and so they can earn rewards in school. Please note, there is a £5 charge for lost books.



Maths - This half term we will be looking at fractions, decimals and percentages. This will involve adding, subtracting, multiplying fractions and dividing fractions. We will also find fractions of amounts use common factors to simplify fractions, compare and order fractions and find links between decimals, percentages and fractions. Throughout the unit, year 6 will practice their investigative, problem-solving



skills in a practical lesson, with a real-life application. This is to reinforce the importance of Maths and remind the children that Maths is everywhere!

We use 'White Rose' at Bessemer for maths. If you want more information or want to offer more support at home, you can look at the parent page on their website: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-6&term=autumn>

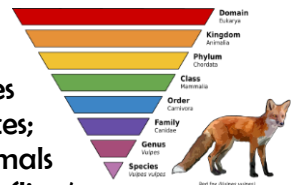
You can support your child at home by completing the SATS homework books which they will receive shortly. Pages each week will both be given to the children and posted on the Google Classroom platform.

Don't forget to log on to Times Tables Rockstars.

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>



Science - This half term, our biology unit will focus on 'Living Things' with a particular emphasis on classification. The unit builds on the previous content by introducing pupils to the importance of classification, including introduction to the term kingdom, the five kingdoms of all living things (bacteria, protists, animals, plants and fungi); vertebrates (reptiles, fish, amphibians, birds and mammals) and their similarities and differences; invertebrates; and ways of splitting these large groups into smaller groups, e.g. mammals can be divided into three groups according to how their young develop: placental (live/fully formed babies at birth); marsupial (pouched); and monotreme (egg laying) mammals.



R.E – This half term we will continue to explore our 'Big Question' – 'What are the similarities and differences between religions?' This half term, the focus is on art in different faiths.

P.E – This term we are completing a dance unit entitled 'Dance Through the Ages', where we will look at different dances from the 1920's onwards, culminating in a performance at the end of the unit. Move over *Strictly!*

All children **must** wear their PE kit into school on the specified days. PE kit should consist of plain navy (black or grey if necessary) bottoms (leggings, shorts or tracksuit bottoms), a white school t-shirt or gem house t-shirt and trainers. This should be worn with a school jumper or cardigan.

6LM	Monday	Thursday
6MS	Monday	Tuesday
6SB	Monday	Thursday

PSHE - This half term, we will be looking at staying healthy and safe including healthy eating, physical health & fitness as well as exploring basic first aid.

Music - This half term, we will be continuing with our violin lessons.

Computing – Website Creation: This unit introduces learners to the creation of websites for a chosen purpose. Learners identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process learners pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.

On behalf of the Year 6 team, we look forward to the term ahead.
As always, thank you for your ongoing support!

Over the term we will be sharing examples of the work your children will be doing in class on our year group webpage: <https://www.thegemfederation.co.uk/bessemer-primary/learning-hub/classes/>

Please do also look to see some of our work from last half term! 😊