



# Topic Learning Letter

Year Six

<b>Topic</b>	This term our topic theme is <b>On Top of the World</b> , which primarily focuses around our work on mountains in geography. We will be learning about how mountain ranges are formed, mysteries surrounding famous mountain explorers and how mountain ranges in the UK affect the lives of the people that live there.
<b>Launch and Land</b>	To launch our topic, the children will undertake the role of detectives and examine a range of evidence to determine the suspected causes behind the disappearance of the mountaineers Andrew Irvin and George Mallory in their attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1924. To land our topic the children will be designing and building programmable mountain buggies, using knowledge and skills from their DT, computing and Science learning.
<b>English</b>	<p>This term, we will read the novel 'Holes' by Louis Sacher, which is a great tale of triumph over adversity, set in the burning American desert. As Stanley, the main character, the children will write letters, exploring how they can vary the language and formality. They will also expand one of the chapters from the book and learn to adopt the particular writing style that Louis Sacher uses. The children will also write a newspaper report linked to the events in 'Holes'. The children will retell a scene from Macbeth, where they will work on creating more grammatically complex sentences and using complex punctuation (such as dashes, colons and semi-colons) more precisely. Linking to our mountains topic, the children will also learn how to write an explanation text about what they believed happened to Mallory and Irvine based on the evidence.</p> <p>We appreciate how busy everyone is and your continued encouragement and support with your children's reading is greatly valued and hugely beneficial. Reading regularly not only helps comprehension across a range of texts but also aids vocabulary and grammar acquisition that the children then apply to their writing. Please continue to sign your children's planners each time you hear them read or when they read independently. We expect the children to read at least three times a week and ideally five times a week.</p> <p>We will continue to focus on a range of spelling rules and patterns as well as introducing and revisiting key vocabulary. Spellings will be handed out and tested on Mondays.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>In maths, we will continue to support the children to develop confidence and fluency with previously learned areas such as calculating fractions, decimals and long division through our daily '10-minute maths' sessions.</p> <p>In class, we will finish developing our understanding about ratio and proportion before learning about percentages, algebra, measurement, data handling, area, perimeter and volume and drawing, translating and reflecting shapes in a co-ordinate grid.</p> <p>It is vital that children retain the ability to be able to fluently recall their times tables and we will continue to assess their times tables knowledge and speed of recall throughout the term. All the children have a log in for TT Rocks stuck in their planners - it's a fun way to practise at home and practising really does make a difference.</p>
<b>Science</b>	In science we will be learning about the circulatory system. We will explore and understand the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood and watch a dissection of a heart in class! Linked to our PSHE topic, we will also participate in

	some practical investigations to help us recognise the way that diet, exercise and lifestyle choices affect the way our bodies function.
<b>Geography</b>	In our mountains topic we will start by understanding precisely what a mountain is and compare different types of mountains. We will then investigate how fossils were found on the top of Everest by Hilary and Norgay in 1953. We will investigate how the Cambrian Mountain range in Wales affects the lives of those that live there.
<b>Computing</b>	In computing, the children will work on Scratch to develop their knowledge of variables and build upon their debugging skills, which involves identifying and fixing errors in their programs. Scratch can be accessed for free at home <a href="https://scratch.mit.edu/">https://scratch.mit.edu/</a> The children will move on to develop their programming skills on Crumble devices, which they will incorporate into their mountain buggies (see below!).
<b>Design and Technology</b>	In D&T, the children will build programmable mountain buggies. These will incorporate simple electrical circuits using their scientific skills. They will then use their computing knowledge to program the buggies to perform certain actions.
<b>Art</b>	We will be creating mountain scenes inspired by Dutch-American artist Reineke Hollander, who based her own work on items that were lost or thrown away. First of all the children will explore the ideas and techniques used by Hollander before they go on to design and create their collages by sewing pieces of material onto a canvas.
<b>Music</b>	During the first half of the term, children will explore and enjoy Gospel music before channelling their inner jazz musician and composing their own Blues music.
<b>PSHE</b>	In our PSHE lessons, we will be thinking more deeply about our short and long term dreams and goals and developing strategies to enable us to achieve them. After half term, we will be revisiting how to lead a healthy lifestyle and in particular the effects that drugs, alcohol and diet have on minds and bodies.
<b>RE</b>	In the first half term, we will be looking at the question, "How do Buddhists explain suffering in the world?". We will look at concepts like karma, reincarnation and enlightenment and children will even have a chance to create their own <i>mandala</i> Buddhist artworks. In the second half of term, we will consider the question "What does it mean to be human?" and ask whether being happy is the greatest purpose in life. Children will approach this topic philosophically, asking their own questions and having time to discuss these in class with each other.
<b>French</b>	In French, we will be describing where we live and looking at festivals that are held in France. We will be learning some more language which will help us when we are on our trip to France in the Summer term.
<b>PE</b>	The children will continue to swim on a Monday morning straight after Christmas. The children will also be developing their skills in hockey, netball and gymnastics this term.
<b>Reminders</b>	<p>The children will sit a set of past SATs papers in the first half term, which will replicate the process they went through in October. Sitting practice papers helps the children to have a really good understanding of the expectation of the national SATs tests in May and to feel comfortable and familiar with the whole experience. All of the children have made progress since the October tests and the January tests help the teachers and children to see where they have improved and to take pride in their achievements. They also help us to pinpoint any key areas to focus on as classes, with groups of children and with individual children. The children will then sit one final set of practice papers before the Easter holiday.</p> <p>The homework this term will continue to focus on revising areas of maths and punctuation and grammar using the homework exercise books and study guides sent home last term. Homework will continue to be set on Tuesdays (due in Fridays) and Fridays (due in Tuesday) and will be marked with the teaching staff in school.</p>

	Whilst there will be a greater focus on supporting the children in preparation for the SATs tests, we are still committed to providing the children with a rich curriculum this term. As always, the year 6 team are here to help if you have any queries.
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