



# Topic Learning Letter

Year Six

<b>Topic</b>	This term our topic will be split into two parts: 'Survival of the fittest' and 'This is our greatest show'. 'Survival of the fittest' focuses on our science topic 'evolution and inheritance'. This will link to our English and computing, where we will research and write about the Emperor Penguin's adaptations and use this content to produce a website. Our final topic 'This is our Greatest Show' will culminate in a live production of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' and the children's Leavers' Assembly.
<b>Launch and Land</b>	We will launch our science topic about 'Evolution and Inheritance' with a trip to the Zoology and Sedgewick Museums in Cambridge. The children's journey through KS2 will land with a celebration of their time at Katherine Semar at their Leavers' Assembly on the last day of school.
<b>Trips</b>	As well as our trip to the Cambridge Museums the children will attend the annual 'Crucial Crew' event to learn about various PSHE issues that affect young people.
<b>English</b>	<p>We are focusing on revisiting and applying the complex punctuation and written grammar techniques that we have learned about into a variety of non-fiction and fiction pieces of writing, whilst building stamina and content. The children always love retelling the poem The Highwayman as a narrative. We will be working on controlling the level of formality of our writing through manipulating the grammar and vocabulary that we use. We will develop our note taking skills to write a non-chronological report about Emperor penguins.</p> <p>We will continue reading for pleasure every afternoon and we will start reading 'Can You See Me?' By Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott. We will also be consolidating all of our comprehension skills.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	This term we will ensure that we have covered the remaining elements of the curriculum whilst also revisiting areas that we believe the children will benefit from consolidating before moving into Key Stage 3. In the second half term, maths will be far more investigative with the children given the opportunity to apply their learning to different projects and tasks.
<b>Science</b>	In science we will learn about evolution and inheritance. We will look in detail at how living things adapt to their environment in order to be able to survive and reproduce. We will learn all about Charles Darwin's voyage aboard the Beagle and the discoveries that he made, especially in the Galapagos Archipelago. We will also learn how to classify living things into broad groups and developing a greater understanding of the specific characteristics that members of that group must have (e.g. vertebrates and invertebrates).
<b>Geography/History</b>	In our joint history and geography topic this term we will be learning about the history of trade, including the ancient trade routes in Asia. We will also learn about what Fairtrade is and explore the history of trade in Saffron Walden.
<b>Design and Technology / Art</b>	Year 6 research the mathematical art of Escher, designing and creating their own tessellations and learning to use perspective to draw mind-bending 'impossible objects'. After half-term, we will explore pop art, particularly the works of Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. We will create our own designs of pop art, experimenting with a range of techniques using screen printing and digital media.

	In DT the children will work in groups to design and bake cakes to sell as an enterprise project.
<b>Music</b>	Our music topics this term will begin with a "musical journey", looking at musical traditions from other parts of the world, in particular South America and India. The use of cyclic patterns will be explored, and we will listen to the work of Ravi Shankar who was a trailblazer in the genre. Later in the term, as well as working towards our Y6 production, we will continue our Ukulele tuition and research the history of more modern pop genres such as rap, grime and synthpop.
<b>PSHE</b>	We will continue to follow the Jigsaw scheme of work in PSHE and our theme is 'Relationships and Changing Me'. Subjects covered will include transition to secondary school, loss and grief, changing bodies in puberty and how a baby grows and develops from conception through to birth. We will provide you with further details of the content matter that the children will be learning about in due course.
<b>RE</b>	This term Year 6 will complete two units in Religious Education. In the first half term, we will look at how different religions have explained how the world was created. These will be compared with scientific accounts with our enquiry question, "Creation and science – conflicting or complementary?". In the second half of term, we will apply our human and social science skills to examine the question, "How do beliefs shape identity for Muslims?"
<b>PE</b>	The children's weekly swimming lessons will continue after the May half term. Over the term the children will be taught athletics, cricket and rounders.
<b>Computing</b>	This half term the children will be learning about how search engines work and how to use search engines effectively to research and find out information. Next half term the children will learn about the features of websites and they will design and create their own website on the adaptations of Emperor penguins (linked to our science and English work) and develop the content for it.
<b>Reminders</b>	The formal assessments, SATs, will take place between the 13 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> May. More information will follow in due course. PE lessons will be on Mondays and Wednesdays this term and children should wear PE kit on these days.