



Topic Learning Letter

Year Six

Topic	Our topic this term is 'Blitz, Bangs and Bombs', which will focus on World War 2. We would love to see any artefacts from this era that the children have at home.
Enrichment & Trips	We launched our topic with our fantastic World War II themed visit from History Off The Page. We are also looking forward to visiting the Henry Moore Foundation this term.
English	<p>Over the term, we will be reading two fiction books set in World War II - Once (by Morris Gleitzman) and When the Sky Falls (by Phil Earlier) as well as Skellig (by David Almond). We will explore these character rich texts in depth during our guided reading lessons. The children will produce creative narrative writing linked to our World War II theme. They will also learn and develop their non-fiction writing skills to create persuasive pieces of writing and a non-chronological report. We put a real emphasis on developing the children's knowledge of new vocabulary across the subjects.</p> <p>We will be reading and discussing our class texts with the children every day. Your support at home with your child's reading is really valued and as important in Year 6 as ever - the texts that children read become increasingly complex and it really benefits them to discuss the themes, vocabulary, character motives and plot with an adult to support their understanding, as well as being heard reading out loud. Ideally the children will read out loud to an adult for 10-15 minutes a day at home but the minimum expectation is three times a week. All reading should be recorded in the children's planners.</p> <p>We will continue to focus on teaching a range of spelling rules, patterns and key words. Spellings will usually be handed out and tested on a Monday and the children should practise them at home.</p>
Maths	In maths we will be focusing on a wide range of arithmetic strategies involving the four operations of number (+, -, x and ÷) including adding and subtracting decimals, long multiplication and long division. We will also be focusing on reading and writing numbers up to 10 million, rounding numbers, negative numbers, common multiples and common factors. We focus on fractions for a significant part of the second half term, where the children will learn to solve calculations involving fractions. At this point the children should be able to rapidly recall all tables up to 12 x 12 out of order. The children all continue to have access to TT Rockstars online (log-in details are the same as last year and will be added into their planners soon), which is a fun and interactive resources to support their accuracy and speed with times tables at home.
Science	<p>In our electricity topic, the children will investigate the role of different components within an electrical circuit. Building on learning from Year 4, children will use electrical symbols to construct circuit diagrams. Children will also independently plan and carry out a scientific enquiry into the effects of the number of cells on the brightness of a bulb.</p> <p>We will also be looking at how light travels and investigating phenomena related to light including shadows and optical illusions.</p>
History	We will be learning about the history of World War II. We were blown away by the fantastic effort that the children put into their dioramas over the summer holiday and it is clear the project has started a personal learning journey for the children. As the topic is vast, we will focus on specific areas of the war including learning the

	factors that led to war, rationing, The Battle of Britain and understanding the experiences of children.
Design and Technology / Art	In art, we will be studying the work and life of Henry Moore and create sculptures based on his underground shelter images. We are excited to be able to see his work and take part in related activities on our trip to the Henry Moore Foundation. Our D&T topic is 'Make Do and Mend', which links to the initiative due to rationing during World War II. The children will create their own pouch from discarded clothing and material. Please do bring in anything that the children (or yourselves!) grow out of!
Music	During the first half term, the children will focus on music from the World War II era. In the second half term, the children will become music explorers during the first half of term allowing them to explore composition and music notation using a series of online tools.
PSHE	Our first unit of PSHE will recap on work around the Zones of Regulation and will help the children to understand how their own actions affect themselves and others and to understand that making mistakes is an important part of their learning and development.
Computing	This term we will focus on online safety. We will teach the children strategies to deal with the situations and dangers they may face online as they get older, which will include nude selfies, online grooming and protecting their data. The children will also be learning about how search engines work and how to use search engines effectively to research and find out information.
PE	<p>During the first half term, the children will be learning dances that were popular during the World War II era and using the themes of World War II to create their own dance routines. They will also have cross-country with the sports coaches. During the second half term, the children will go swimming. The children will need the usual kit of towel, swimming hat and trunks/costume. If desired, goggles may also be worn. They will also have tag rugby with the sports coaches.</p> <p>Please ensure that your child comes to school on their PE days (Wednesdays and Fridays this half term) in their correct school PE kit, which must be labelled with their name. Guidelines for PE kit can be found on our school website. Please be aware that the class teacher must see a signed note in the planner if your child needs to be excused from PE or swimming due to a medical issue otherwise they will be expected to take part.</p>
Reminders	<p>We will be providing opportunities for children to research and take greater ownership of their learning through more open-ended homework tasks or projects this term. These will be subject-based and will be set every 1-2 weeks in the children's planners. These projects provide a wonderful opportunity for children to deepen their understanding of a subject and to be creative. Although we expect high quality work, we do not expect it take hours and will provide guidance around timescales on the homework sheets. At an appropriate point this term and through the Spring term, we will move to more formal maths and English exercise books to revise key learning and concepts. More information will follow on this.</p> <p>Please do not forget that messages can be communicated via the planner or by emailing the school office if needed. Your child must show their teacher when a note has been written. The teacher will also sign the planner each week to acknowledge their effort in reading at home.</p> <p>Finally, please name everything, including water bottles so that we can return lost or borrowed items. We also ask that the children should leave their pencil cases in school to avoid losing the school stationery that we provide them with at the start of the year. We are very much looking forward to a successful year working and learning with you and your children.</p>