

Curriculum Overview

Year 6 (2023/2024)

MATHS

In Year 6, children followed the White Rose Maths Scheme, developing a comprehensive understanding of place value (including numbers up to 10,000,000), ratios, scaling, and the four operations. Fractions, decimals, and percentages were integral to their mathematical journey, with children recognizing and converting between these representations and demonstrating confidence and accuracy in performing operations. Measurement involved calculating area, perimeter, volume, and exploring real-world scenarios. Children honed their data collection and interpretation skills in statistics, creating visual representations. They also gained proficiency in position and direction on a coordinate grid, preparing them for geometry concepts. Overall, Year 6 children built a strong mathematical foundation, ready for future studies.

ENGLISH

Throughout Year 6, we explored captivating literary works that sparked the children's imagination and nurtured a love for reading. From 'Our Castle by the Sea' to 'Darwin's Dragons', these texts made a lasting impression. Using the Literacy Shed VIPERS, we delved into a variety of genre extracts, including favourites like 'The Viewer' and 'Holes'. Our writing journey was equally enriching, with diverse stimuli inspiring book reviews, biographies, holiday brochures, newspaper reports, and non-chronological reports. The children's narrative writing flourished as they crafted engaging plots and chose impactful words to captivate readers. A highlight was creating a dialogue between Hagrid and Dursley from 'Harry Potter', unleashing their creativity and literary voices. Overall, Year 6 embraced the literary journey, showcasing their passion for reading, imaginative thinking, and expressive writing skills.

SCIENCE

Throughout the year, the children have delved into a range of scientific topics, including living things and their habitats, animals including humans, evolution and inheritance, electricity, and light. Through hands-on investigative work, the children have honed their scientific skills and critical thinking abilities. They have learned to design fair tests, make well-considered predictions, carefully observe changes and patterns, record results, and draw independent conclusions. This process has empowered them to take ownership of their scientific inquiries and develop a deeper understanding of the scientific method. One highlight was a visit from an expert speaker who dissected a heart and answered the children's questions about the human body. This engaging experience further enriched their understanding of the topic and provided a real-world connection to their learning.

GEOGRAPHY

Our Geography topics this year were 'How is the global population changing?' and 'Where does our energy come from?'. During these topics, the children were encouraged to think critically

and explain their reasoning. We learnt lots of subject-specific terminology which we have used in our answers. The children read and interpreted statistics to improve their understanding and form opinions. We conducted a fieldwork investigation of our local area which the children planned and conducted. Throughout our Geography topics, we used Flashback Fours to revise and consolidate our understanding of the Geography learned in Years 3-5.

HISTORY

During the study of World War II, pupils delved into various aspects of the war. They examined the impact of air raids, gaining an understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by individuals living in war-torn areas. The topic of evacuation provided insight into the realities and experiences of those evacuated during the war. Children also delved into the concept of rationing, comprehending its importance for managing limited resources during the conflict. The role of women in World War II was explored, highlighting their contributions and resilience on the home front. Additionally, pupils investigated Operation Dynamo, focusing on the evacuation of British and Allied troops from Dunkirk, as well as the role of Dover Castle in defending the coast.

Shifting to the study of Ancient Greece, pupils delved into its fascinating civilization. They were introduced to the foundations of Ancient Greece, including its culture, politics, and achievements. The comparison between Athens and Sparta provided insight into the contrasting city-states. Exploring the roles and lives of women in Ancient Greece shed light on their societal positions and contributions. The significance of the Olympic Games in Greek culture and the worship of Greek Gods and Goddesses were explored. Lastly, pupils learned about the lasting legacy of Ancient Greece, recognizing its enduring impact on art, philosophy, and democratic ideals.

COMPUTING

In Year 6 Computing lessons, children have learnt and practised computing skills as well as revised their understanding of E-safety. Pupils learnt to edit images which they all excelled at. Children looked at computer networks including their components, the World Wide Web and the importance of network security. E-safety was a significant focus, equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills to stay safe online. They learned about responsible internet use, cyberbullying, and how to protect personal information. Our latest topic had the children learn Binary Code!

ART

In Art, we have focused on developing our artistic skills and technical vocabulary. Throughout each topic, there has been a distinct focus on transcription, analysis, and evaluation. Our first

topic, inspired by art movements throughout history, led to experimenting with different styles and techniques. We used this exploration to draw our own self-portraits. Our second topic was inspired by the Ancient Greeks. We looked at how they told stories through a variety of mediums, including the Greek Vase. The children used this understanding to draw their own story on a jar. Additionally, the children reflected on the power of storytelling, the different ways stories can be told, and their preferred way to share their own stories. The final topic of the year was all about landscapes. Children recapped and built upon their learning from Year 5, which had focused on the use of perspective and colour.

DT

We have covered two Design and Technology topics this year. The first project was titled 'Building Bridges,' in which children designed, built, and tested their own bridges. Initially, children learned about the engineering components of bridges, which introduced them to technical vocabulary. Using this knowledge, they designed their own bridges according to a strict design specification. Once their individual designs were complete, children worked in small groups to build their bridge prototypes. They had to work safely and efficiently to complete their bridges on time. In Term 6, our Design and Technology topic focused on cooking. Working closely with the kitchen team, we made our own pizzas. We created our own recipes, chose our own toppings, and prepared our pizzas. We followed kitchen safety protocols and maintained kitchen hygiene.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RE)

This year we have continued to use the Discovery RE scheme, which teaching religions using thought-provoking questions. An example of what the pupils investigated was whether Christianity remained a strong religion even 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth. This inquiry provided insights into the enduring influence and relevance of Christianity in the contemporary world. Additionally, pupils explored the impact of belief in Akhirah (life after death) on the lives of Muslims. Through this exploration, they gained a deeper understanding of how Islamic beliefs shaped ethical and moral choices and how faith impacted individuals' conduct in their communities. Overall, RE offered a comprehensive and engaging study of diverse religious perspectives, fostering pupils' understanding, empathy and appreciation for different faiths.

PSHE

The Year 6 PSHE curriculum, utilizing the Jigsaw approach, provided a comprehensive and child-centred learning experience. The curriculum aimed to support pupils in their journey of self-discovery and understanding their place in the world. Throughout the year, pupils engaged with termly topics that guided their learning. These included "Being Me in My World," which explored self-identity and personal responsibility. They also delved into "Celebrating Difference," fostering appreciation for diversity and promoting inclusivity. The topic of "Dreams and Goals" encouraged pupils to set aspirations and develop strategies for achieving them. "Healthy Me" focused on promoting physical and mental well-being, while "Relationships" aimed to develop positive social skills and healthy relationships. Finally, "Changing Me"

allowed pupils to explore the physical and emotional changes associated with adolescence. This comprehensive curriculum empowered Year 6 pupils to navigate the challenges and opportunities they encountered, equipping them with essential life skills for their future.

PE

The children have experienced a wide range of Physical Education lessons this year, which were led by specialist PE coaches, class teachers, and swimming coaches. Each term was dedicated to a specific activity, such as dance, yoga, and rounders. Additionally, the children actively participated in various ball games, such as basketball, football, and dodgeball, which helped them improve their communication skills. Year 6 pupils attended swimming lessons at Whitstable Swimming Pool. These lessons were both engaging and challenging and, as a result, each child grew more confident over time. To prepare for Sports Day, we focused on Athletics during the summer term. This involved the children learning and practicing proper technique.

MUSIC

Our most senior students started the year studying pop and Motown music, while discussing music and mood with particular focus on positive emotions. Artists included Pharrell Williams. They then moved onto jazz, (more advanced than Year 5 jazz) analysing hits in the genre from the 20th Century by artists like Duke Ellington. Terms 3 and 4 involved a lot of playing and improvising on instruments, as well as copying back motifs. Terms 5 and 6 focused on musical history. Eras of music studied included medieval, baroque, classical, romantic and 20th Century. Over the year, students also had regular sessions learning ukulele chords and melodies, which they played along to songs at the end of the year.

SPANISH

We have been practising our Spanish speaking, reading and listening skills this year. We have practised and consolidated vocabulary learnt in previous years and begun to participate in Spanish conversations. Some of our topics have included pets, days, months, weeks and numbers. We also learnt to say where we live. The children are beginning to have a good foundation of the Spanish language which they can continue to build upon.