



# Year 6 Curriculum Overview Autumn 1

This is an overview of what we will be learning in Year 6 this half term. You can find further curriculum information on the school website.

## English

### Reading



In Year 6 English, children read *Letters from the Lighthouse*, a historical novel set during World War II. The story follows Olive and her brother Cliff, who are evacuated to Devon after an air raid in London. While reading, children develop key skills:

- **Retrieval:** finding facts and details in the text
- **Prediction:** thinking about what might happen next
- **Summary:** identifying the main events
- **Inference and deduction:** working out characters' feelings and motives from clues
- **Explanation:** discussing themes and author's choices

Lessons also encourage discussion about life during wartime and how historical events shape people's lives.

### Writing

Children will create their own narrative inspired by the wordless graphic novel *The Arrival*. They will imagine the journey of a migrant arriving in a strange land, using vivid description and emotive storytelling. After reading the poem *The Wind on the Downs* by Marian Allen, building on their understanding of war and remembrance, the children will write a memorial poem reflecting on loss and hope. Additionally, pupils will write a diary entry from the perspective of a child evacuee during World War II.

### Spelling

Revision of key spelling patterns, suffixes, homophones, and Year 5/6 statutory words. Focus on proofreading and using dictionaries.

## Maths



This term in Year 6 Maths children will focus on reading, writing, and ordering numbers up to 10 million, rounding large numbers, finding powers of 10 and using negative numbers. They will practise adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing large numbers using formal written methods, including long multiplication and division with remainders. They will solve multistep problems involving more than one operation and use estimation to check answers. Pupils will also understand the order of operations, known as BODMAS.

## RE



Year 6 pupils will explore the Creation story to understand God's plan for the world and our role as stewards of creation. They will learn about Original Sin and Baptism, reflecting on the lessons from the Fall and how sin affects our relationships. The unit focuses on restoring relationships through understanding sin, human dignity, and our responsibility in caring for creation. Pupils will also explore the New Covenant in Jesus, recognising how He restores our relationship with God and the world. Finally, they will consider how Faith and Science work together to explore the beginnings of the universe, developing a deeper appreciation of both perspectives.

## Science



In Year 6 Science, children learn how the circulatory system keeps the body alive and healthy. They study the heart as a pump, blood vessels that carry blood, and how oxygen and nutrients travel around the body. Pupils explore how the heart and lungs work together and investigate how exercise affects heart rate. They also learn why a balanced diet and regular activity are vital for a healthy heart. By the end, children can name key parts of the system and explain how it works. Parents can help by discussing healthy habits and exploring resources about the human body together.

## Humanities

In Year 6 History, children study **World War I and why it began in 1914**. They explore causes such as alliances, rivalries, and the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Pupils learn what life was like for soldiers in the trenches and how new inventions like tanks and planes changed warfare. Lessons also look at how the war affected life in Britain. Children find out how women took on new roles while men were fighting and how rationing and propaganda influenced daily life. They use sources like letters, posters, and photographs to understand different viewpoints and feelings of the time.

By the end of this topic, pupils can explain the causes and major events of the war, describe trench life, and discuss why remembrance is important today.

## PHSE/ RSE

In Year 6, our PSHE curriculum helps children develop the knowledge and skills to lead healthy, balanced lives. Pupils learn about making positive food choices, the benefits of regular physical activity, good sleep routines, and dental care. We explore mental health and wellbeing, strategies for managing the impact of social media, and how to stay safe online. Children also learn about the risks associated with drugs, alcohol, and smoking, as well as how to protect themselves in the sun. Throughout the year, we promote British Values such as respect, tolerance, and individual liberty, helping prepare pupils for secondary school and encouraging them to take responsibility for their own health and happiness.

## Music

Year 6 pupils will study the Charanga music unit "**Happy**", using the song to develop key musical skills. They will listen and appraise different versions of the song and other related styles, identifying musical elements such as rhythm, tempo, pitch, and dynamics. Children will sing and play instruments, learning to perform with accuracy and expression. They will also improvise and compose their own musical ideas inspired by the theme of happiness, building confidence and creativity. Throughout the unit, they will explore how music can express emotions and bring people together, developing teamwork and a deeper appreciation of musical styles and performance.

## Computing

In Year 6 Computing, pupils will deepen their understanding of how digital systems work by learning to recognise what a network is and how websites operate. They will explore how search engines function and develop skills to use them effectively. As part of their digital literacy, pupils will also learn to critically evaluate online content and understand that not everything they read online is true. Additionally, they will apply computational thinking strategies such as decomposition and pattern recognition to solve problems and develop logical solutions.

## Art/D&T

Year 6 students will work with Mrs Katsiitis on **Fantastic Landscapes**, developing their skills in imaginative drawing using mixed media. They will explore colour and pattern to create original ideas, and practise blending shading and colour to add depth and form to their work. Pupils will build control of pressure and observation skills, using a variety of mark-making techniques to create texture and detail. They will learn how colour choices can create different moods in their artwork and will discuss, evaluate, and refine their pieces thoughtfully. Inspired by the style of well-known artists, students will create their own landscape artworks while using a rich range of subject-specific vocabulary to describe and explain their creative process.

## PE

In Year 6 PE, students will further develop their netball skills through focused practice and gameplay. They will refine key techniques such as passing, footwork, shooting, and defensive positioning, while deepening their understanding of rules and strategies. Emphasis will be placed on teamwork, communication, and tactical awareness in both attack and defense.



## Spanish

In this unit, Year 6 pupils will explore the topic of **Clothes**, learning new vocabulary and how to describe clothing in detail. They will give reasons for outfit choices, respond to design briefs, and use their knowledge to plan and create their own outfits.

