



Year 6 Spring 1 Newsletter



Coming up in Spring 1

Crazy Creatures

For the start of this half term, we will be learning about evolution, adaptation and inheritance in our Science lessons. To enhance our Science learning, we will be learning about the fictional moon Pandora and its many extraordinary creatures. We will use our knowledge of adaptation and evolution to write scientifically about Pandoran creatures. We will also create Pandoran landscape paintings inspired by the artwork of Vincent Van Gogh.



Using all of our learning, we will answer the question:
Do you need to adapt to survive?

Thank you for your continued support
Year 6 Team

Our English learning will include writing scientifically about an imagined creature who lives on the fictional moon Pandora. The children will use the documentary 'Pandora Discovered' to inspire them as well as their science learning to help them write scientifically about adaptation and evolution in their reports.

As well as this, the children will learn about the artist Vincent Van Gogh and will write biographies about this great artist.

Our Mathematics learning will focus on learning Geometry and Measurement this term. In our Geometry lessons, we will learn about positions and directions of shapes, co-ordinates on 4-quadrant grids, angles and the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes.

In our measurement lessons, we will be learning about the areas and perimeters of rectilinear shapes.

Our Personal and Development Learning (SCARF) unit is:



Valuing Difference

The key learning points are:

- the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs.
- the characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties.
- that a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.

How you can **support your child's learning at home**



Supporting your child to complete their Home Learning each week is one of the best ways that you can help from home. Our new Home Learning books are up and running, and each week's Home Learning (whether it is Maths or Spelling-based) will help them remember key number facts and spelling rules. Every week, your child will have a book, of their choice, to read at home with you or by themselves. Your comments and feedback are of great value to us.

Other ways that you can support your child are by encouraging them to practice tricky spellings from rules learnt in previous Year Groups and the statutory word lists for Years 3-4 and 5-6. Going back to previous home-learning sent and refreshing their memories is also exceptionally useful. Can they *still* remember their prime numbers to 100, their cubed numbers or their fraction, decimal and percentage equivalence, for example. Repeated practice will help your child to consolidate their understanding.

Year 6 Messages

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Design and Technology 'Sewing Master-class' on Tuesday 13th December. We really hope you enjoyed the chance for the children to teach you what they had been learning during the last half term.

Thank you for your support with the new Home Learning. Please return Home Learning books by Thursday each week, at which point, reading books can be exchanged.

Dates for your Year 6 diary

We are excited to invite you to a parent drop-in on **Tuesday 7th February at 3:00pm** for a tour of our Art Gallery, which will be displaying our paintings based on Van Gogh's 'The Starry Night'.

Find out about the wonderful learning we did in Autumn 2 on the next page...

Our Learning in Autumn 2

Hubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble

We continued to use Macbeth as the inspiration for our writing at the beginning of Autumn 2. This time we focused on the character of Lady Macbeth and her 'meddlesome' ways. The children had to write letters pretending to be this difficult lady. As part of this writing journey, we completed a 'conscience alley' activity, where Lady Macbeth got the chance to explore the pros and cons of committing treason against King Duncan. The children acted as angels and devils on Macbeth's shoulder and helped him to make his final decision.



At the end of the writing journey, the children produced some amazing letters, which really spelt out their reasons for and/or against committing treason.

Martian Madness

During our theme, Martian Madness, the children read the opening chapters of *The War of the Worlds* as inspiration for the learning that they completed over the remainder of the half-term. The children read up until the point where the Martians crash landed into Earth – more specifically, Horsell Common near Woking. These exciting – yet scary – events were the focus of several different aspects of our learning.



In Art, the children learnt about drawing in the foreground, mid-ground and background, using J.M.W Turner's artwork for inspiration. The children ventured out into the school grounds armed with iPads in order to capture the perfect photo which had a clear foreground, mid-ground and background. Then, in class, these photos were used to practise our drawing skills. Finally, using the skills that had been learnt, the children created their works of art, depicting the events on Horsell Common.

In English, the children used the events of the first few chapters of the story, to inspire their witness statements of the day. What was seen? What was heard? How did people react? The children acted out Chapter 3 of the story to help them understand what they would have seen and experienced that day. Year 6 caught the mood of the scene and wrote some excellent recounts.

It was lovely to welcome you all into school in the last week of term so that the children could share their Christmas sewing projects with you. They designed and made some amazing Christmas tree decorations. What a great turn out it was – it was lovely to invite so many parents and grandparents into the year group. We hope you enjoyed learning how to sew. The drop-in was a lovely way to end the half-term!

