

Year 6 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

A Power Within



This leaflet aims to give you information on the curriculum the children will be covering during the Autumn Term.

English

As readers, they will continue to develop their reading fluency and strengthen their vocabulary skills by using contextual clues and working with dictionaries and thesauruses.

In guided reading lessons, they will be exposed to a wide range of texts, including fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction, and reference books. Where possible, they will make cross-curricular links to deepen their understanding.

This term, they will enjoy a rich variety of books during our daily read-aloud sessions, helping to foster a love of reading and broaden their experience of different genres and styles. They will listen to:

- ✓ Classic: 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- ✓ Historical Fiction: 'Goodnight Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian
- ✓ Modern Fiction: 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman
- ✓ Poetry: 'Cloud Busting' by Malorie Blackman

This term, they will engage with four powerful texts to inspire a range of writing styles and deepen their understanding of complex themes.

First, they will study William Kamkwamba's autobiography, which recounts his experience growing up during the Malawian famine of 2001 and building a wind turbine to support his family. Linked to their geography topic, they will write formal reports, using active and passive voice, advanced punctuation to demarcate clauses, cohesive devices, and structured layouts to support clarity for the reader.

Next, they will read Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman, a science fiction novel exploring ethical dilemmas around organ transplantation. This will provide a springboard for writing formal letters, allowing them to express balanced and persuasive viewpoints while maintaining control and formality in their writing.

After half-term, they will take part in a special writing project for Remembrance Day, inspired by Dear Jelly, a collection of real-life letters from World War I trenches. They will write their own letters, carefully controlling tone and register to reflect the informal style of the early 20th century and vividly describe life during wartime. They will perform their work, alongside poetry and narratives, during a Remembrance Service on 11 November 2025.

As Christmas approaches, they will read Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian, focusing on narrative writing set in dangerous and unusual environments. They will use a range of techniques to create emotionally rich and engaging stories.

Throughout the term, they will study a wide variety of texts in guided reading lessons, receive weekly spelling instruction, and complete grammar homework using CGP books to reinforce key concepts.

Maths

Across the school, maths is structured using the NCETM programme, aligned with the DfE's Ready to Progress criteria (2020). They will continue to learn through the concrete, pictorial, and abstract approach, ensuring deep conceptual understanding before moving to abstract representations. Bar and part-whole models will support their problem-solving skills.

This term, they will develop their understanding of mathematical structures, work with multiples of 1,000, and explore numbers up to 10,000,000. They will also draw, compose, and decompose shapes, building spatial awareness and reasoning.

They will complete fortnightly times tables tests, applying their knowledge in contexts such as powers of 10 and simplifying fractions. Weekly homework will be set using CGP books, as outlined in the homework schedule.

Geography

In the first half of the term, they will study the economic activity of the United Kingdom, using case studies to explore land use, employment sectors (primary, secondary, tertiary) and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Linked to their class reader, they will investigate the causes of the Malawian famine of 2001, and explore energy deficits globally. In a UK context, they will examine the development of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station and the proposed tidal barrage in the Severn Estuary. They will use map skills to locate global resources and analyse their distribution.

History

In the second half of the term, they will explore the experiences of children during wartime, focusing on World War I and World War II. They will conduct a detailed study using primary and secondary sources, including Dear Jelly, which offers insight into trench life through letters exchanged between siblings.

They will examine the chronology of both wars, the changes experienced by children, and the nutritional shifts prompted by World War II, including the establishment of the Ministry of Food. They will analyse propaganda and advertising techniques, and compare fictional accounts such as Goodnight Mr Tom with historical sources to build a coherent understanding of life during wartime.

Science

Early in the term, they will focus on electricity, learning to associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells in a circuit. They will explain variations in component function, use recognised symbols in circuit diagrams, and plan scientific enquiries with controlled variables and fair testing.

Later, they will study the human circulatory system, describing the functions of the heart, blood vessels, and blood. Linked to PSHE, they will explore the impact of diet, exercise and lifestyle on bodily function, and describe how nutrients and water are transported in animals, including humans.

They will conduct scientific investigations, including designing and assessing a cardiovascular exercise programme. They will record data, take repeat measurements, draw charts and graphs and evaluate the reliability of their results.

Art, Design & Technology

As artists, they will study Paul Cummins' inspiring 2014 poppy art installation and use clay, dowel, wire and sculpture techniques to create a memorial for veterans of World War I. They will sculpt, paint and gloss their poppies, photograph the final installation and enjoy the opportunity to share their work with others.

As designers, they will complete two key projects: cooking nutritious scones and sewing a decorative sack to hold Christmas chocolates. Linking to their scientific study of nutrition and historical understanding of wartime challenges, they will explore recipes used by Christian churches in charitable food kitchens during

World War II. They will consider nutritional requirements, work with ration-based ingredient lists, and sample their own cooking to suggest improvements.

They will also design and create decorative chocolate sacks, choosing appropriate materials, exploring joining methods, and using decorative stitching to produce a festive tree hanging that is both attractive and functional.

Music

As musicians, Year 6 will begin the term by exploring rhythm and time signatures, focusing on 6/8 rhythms through songs and collaborative rhythm games. They will learn to identify changes in time signature and musical style in pieces such as Take Five Styles.

Performing rhythms expressively will be a key focus, with pupils experimenting with vocal and instrumental effects in rhythmic poems and songs like Plastic Wrap and 1066 Rap. They will explore how articulation, dynamics, and timbre can change the character of music and learn to recognise these features when listening to performances.

Throughout the term, children will discover rhythms from around the world, including West African djembe drumming, Latin American styles such as tango, salsa, and samba, and Konnakol from South India. They will learn to play polyrhythms and create layered rhythmic textures inspired by global music traditions.

The term will end with pupils capturing their rhythmic ideas in a structured performance, such as choreographing a cup routine or creating a 16-beat body percussion break to accompany the song Fiesta! They will also learn and perform songs for Harvest and Christmas.

Computing & Online Safety

As computer experts, they will develop their understanding of digital systems and data through two key units:

Communication and Collaboration

They will explore how people communicate and work together online. They will learn about different digital tools for collaboration, discuss the benefits and risks of online communication, and understand how to stay safe and respectful when working in shared digital spaces.

Introduction to Spreadsheets

They will use Google Docs to understand spreadsheets and how to collect and organize data to plan a party!

By the end of the term, they will have strengthened their ability to use technology effectively and responsibly, preparing them for more advanced digital tasks.

Physical Education (PE)

This term the children will be looking at Invasion Games and Net/Wall games. This will involve learning the skills and tactics used in these games and experiencing small sided and simplified versions of these games. The focus will be on teamwork and fair play as well as improving skills of travel, sending, receiving, dodging, attacking and defending. They will have the opportunity to develop the skills they have previously learnt and put them into practice in match situations.

They will also be looking into game rules and competitions. Looking at being a team leader, and having that responsibility. They will begin to focus on their tactical thinking and decision making.

Religious Education (RE)

In RE, they will learn about Hinduism, exploring the significance of Dharma and key stories that underpin the Hindu faith. They will be encouraged to participate in discussions and ask thoughtful questions throughout the unit.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE)

In PSHE, they will explore the school values of resilience and friendship. They will discuss what it means to belong to a community and how to be global citizens.

Later in the term, they will focus on three key themes that help children understand and develop healthy relationships:

- ✓ Families and People Who Care for Us – exploring the different types of families and the importance of love, care and support.
- ✓ Respectful and Kind Relationships – learning how to treat others with kindness and respect in all situations.
- ✓ Caring Friendships – understanding what makes a good friend and how to build strong, positive friendships.

These lessons help children develop empathy, respect and the social skills they need to thrive both in and out of school.

Online Safety

This term, they will learn how to stay safe and make positive choices online. Our focus will be on two key themes:

- ✓ Privacy and Security – understanding why it's important to keep personal information private, how to create strong passwords and ways to protect themselves when using digital devices.
- ✓ Online Bullying – recognising what online bullying looks like, how it can affect others and what to do if they or someone they know experiences it.

These lessons help children build confidence and responsibility when using technology, ensuring they know how to stay safe and treat others with respect online.

French

This term, we will explore going back to school for French children and examine similarities and differences. We will build on prior knowledge to explore a range of language structures as we use our speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar skills.

We will focus on the weather, seasons and the geography of France. We will build on prior knowledge to learn about Halloween and the Jour du Souvenir (Remembrance Day), in France. Towards the end of term, we will focus on the traditions connected to St. Nicolas and Noël.

Homework

They will follow the homework schedule available on the Year 6 section of the website, which includes weekly English, maths, spelling, and knowledge homework, fortnightly times table tasks and a half-termly homework menu.

English and maths homework will typically come from CGP books, while knowledge homework will involve creating ten questions from a topic page to quiz the class. They will be encouraged to read for at least 30 minutes each night, recording their reading in their homework diaries. Recommended books are listed on the website.