Art, Design & Technology

Linked to their computing work, the children will use computer aided design (CAD) to develop an appealing toy. They will consider how different toys and designed, speak to a working designer and create scale drawings before using the computer to create their model and 3D print it.

Computing

Computing is at the heart of this term's objectives. Linked to our PSHE study of media and digital literacy and our writing topic on clickbait, we will look at developing websites – what makes an effective website, how can they be created and developed, including using Google Sites and introducing some elements of HTML control to manipulate particular features and inspect and analyse elements of other sites.

The children will also explore computer systems and their functions, including the internet and continue to follow our detailed online safety curriculum with an emphasis on privacy and security as well as using search engines effectively.

Physical Education

The children will work on developing their hand/eye co-ordination, working on games such as football, hockey and 'catchball'. Alongside this, they will have dance sessions in anticipation of our year-end production.

Religious Education

Christianity is a key focus this term, linked both to Easter and our work on evolution, but focusing particularly on the theme of salvation. We will study the importance of Jesus and understand the significance of his sacrifice.

Personal, Social, Heath and Economic education

Linked to our writing and computing topics, we will study media resilience and digital literacy as well as topics linked to Safety Week.

French

In specialist French lessons, they will learn about the Mardi Gras including a study of French Guyana linked to their geography as well as regular practice of speaking, listening and writing in French in their specialist French provision. They will also celebrate 'International Mother Language Day'.

Homework

The schedule of homework for the term is available on the year 6 section of the website and lists the due dates for the children's weekly English, maths, spelling and knowledge homeworks as well as their fortnightly times table homework and their half-termly homework from a menu of options. The English and maths homeworks will usually involve pages from their CGP books while the knowledge gives them the opportunity to build their self-questioning and revision skills by creating ten questions from a page of information relevant to our topics: we will choose one of their sets of questions to quiz the class.

Additionally and crucially, children should continue to read at least half an hour a night and record their reading in their homework diaries. Recommended books are on the website.

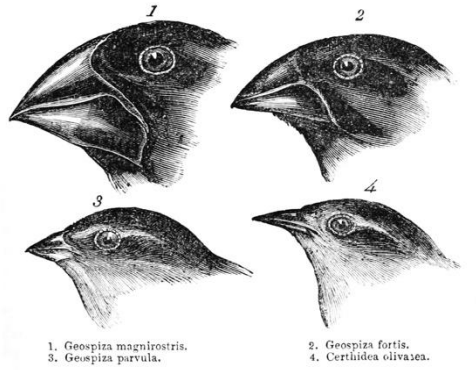
Year 6 Curriculum Overview

Spring Term 2025

PARKFIELD SCHOOL

In the Beginning

This leaflet aims to give you information on the curriculum we will be covering during the Spring term.



1. Geospiza magnirostris.
2. Geospiza fortis.
3. Geospiza parvula.
4. Certhidea olivacea.

English

We return with a focus on writing for the web linking to our digital literacy topics in PSHE and computing. This allows children to experience new styles of writing and to read in different ways, particularly exploring the persuasive features and tight control of tense and punctuation used in 'clickbait' articles.

They will manipulate language to persuade and hook readers in – and, in the process, learn to be a lot more canny about such manipulation techniques as they browse the web themselves! We will read a number of texts linked to our science objectives including extracts from a natural history book *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs*, a graphic novel interpretation of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* as well as news articles and fiction.

Then it is time to turn our attention to exploring character flaws in our narrative storytelling. We will be reading a number of short stories across the year including *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* by Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Signalman* by Charles Dickens, *The Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde and others to build the children's appetite for building atmosphere and generating suspense. We will compare archaic and modern features of stories so they can write in different roles but also approach reading more complex, older texts with greater confidence. We will explore different techniques for using imagery and theme, the use of irony and the children will practise using dialogue accurately in their own compositions both to move the story forward and to demonstrate characterisation.

Additionally, the children will continue to progress through their spelling and grammar curriculum linked to the homework schedule and will have opportunities to practise test skills in grammar, punctuation and spelling as well as reading in preparation for their May tests. We will continue to build their stamina for writing at length in anticipation of secondary school.

Maths

The children now have learned most of the core arithmetic skills for year 6 and so the spring term is about consolidating these key skills to ensure they are fast and fluent while applying them broadly in the extended maths curriculum.

Throughout Spring Term, learners will continue to build upon their existing knowledge of: multiplication and division; area, perimeter, position and direction; fractions and percentages. They will also further develop their understanding of statistics through cross-curricular activities.

As ever, children will experience a progression from concrete resources such as fraction cubes through to pictorial representations such as bar models and puzzles and ultimately to abstract questions and open-ended problems including multi-step problems. They will practise methods to estimate and check their work and gauge whether or not their choices were effective. They will learn to reason using an answer-prove-explain model, using precise mathematical vocabulary and applying computational thinking and systematic working skills to more complex problems.

Science

A new year means a fresh start… but we are going to start this year by looking at the original fresh start as we track the origins of life from the Big Bang through to the formation of the Earth, the primordial soup that gave rise to life as we know it and beyond. We will look at the fossil evidence that allows us to trace the evolution of life on Earth from the dinosaurs to the present day and come to understand how variation and adaptation play a key role in the biodiversity of today. Linked to our studies of different biomes and the Galapagos in geography and sketching in art, we will explore how evolution works and track the history of one of the great minds who pioneered it, Charles Darwin, as well as learning about other key figures such as pioneering local palaeontologist Mary Anning.

Light is also a key theme from the beginning of time. We will look at use of light and shade artistically, in the context of computing but also study its properties scientifically, understanding how the eye interprets it, how it appears to travel in straight lines. Using this idea, they will explain shadows and their shapes before applying these principles both to their own artwork and to their scientific investigations.

Working scientifically is a huge part of their studies of light. The children will investigate a range of scenarios, working scientifically by controlling variables, recoding results accurately and applying their measurement and statistical analysis skills from maths. They will encounter a range of different presentations of data and be required to draw conclusions, present findings and gauge the degree of trust that different findings can present. Through their studies of Darwin, they will learn the controversies that can surround scientific inquiry and so learn to identify the specific evidence that is used to back up theories, including studying some examples of evolution still in action today.

Geography

Geography is a key focus this term and will be the thread running through our science studies and our computing work. We will explore how biomes work and study different biomes and ecosystems around the world as well as broadening our map skills, both digital and regional maps, working at different scales for different reasons.

A particular focus will be on the Galapagos Islands, an archipelago of huge significance because it was the inspiration for so much of Charles Darwin's evolutionary theories but today is a fascinating case study in the benefits and dangers of eco-tourism. This gives us the opportunity to analyse data, review information and consider the status of the Galapagos both in relation to British geography and in the context of the South American continent.