

Year 6 Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2024 World War I topic continues...

Year 6

Teachers: Mrs Cooper plus management time covered by Ms Crolla

HLTA: Miss Quenby

On behalf of all the Year 6 staff, I would like to thank all the children and their parents for the beautiful cards, well wishes and thoughtful gifts we received for Christmas - we are always overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown and wish you a very happy and peaceful new year!



Important Days

Y6 Boosters: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Y6 booster classes start Tuesday 9th January and will run every Tuesday & Thursday until Thursday 9th May 2024.

PE Days: Tuesday and Friday

PE lessons - full kits needed with trainers. No branded PE kit thank you!

Homework due on Fridays: this includes reading diaries should be signed by parents.

Children must bring their reading diaries and school reading books into school every day.

ALL children must have a grey school jumper/cardigan in school.

Please label all uniform.

RE - Jesus the Son of God

In RE this half term, children will learn about the different parts of the Mass, particularly the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They will learn about the first Passover, and we still study Judaism further here, linking to the work we did in Y5, along with our trip to a synagogue last year. Y6 will show an understanding of the links between the first Passover and the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. They will reflect on the importance of the body and blood of Christ for Catholics.



English

We will continue to use our history stimulus of the war as the children are very much engrossed in this topic. We continue with the class text of War Horse, by Michael Morpurgo, which the children have been really enjoying so far. The children will build on prior learning and skills writing and write non-chronological reports about trench warfare and animals in the war. Year 6 will polish up on the use of commas for adverbial openers and embedded clauses and will also continue to apply and embed the new skill of using colons and semi-colons. Year 6 will also enjoy narrative style writing where they will write a diary entry about the Women's Land Army. They will then be exploring poetry linked to WWI and writing their own poems to convey an image.

Punctuation and spelling remain a key priority this half term. Whenever the opportunities arise, we will write in role linked to RE and Topic work so that the children have a real purpose to write. Weekly spellings are focussed on specific gaps identified from a whole class analysis and it's essential that they also learn statutory KS2 5/6 words which they are expected to be able to spell by the end of the year. These are available on the Y6 home page, and we work on them in class too.



Mathematics

Year 6 will build on prior learning and extend to cover the following areas in maths: solving multi-step problems in contexts linked to all four operations; multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, 1000; finding % of amounts and word problems linked to this; equivalent fractions, comparing fractions and adding and subtracting fractions with the same and different denominators and mixed numbers. Year 6 will also learn how to use knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations (also known as BODMAS) and multiply simple pairs of proper fractions writing the answer in its simplest form.

The children will also do regular arithmetic practises in short bursts to keep their mental skills and their written methods developing nicely. **Work on times tables is still needed unfortunately to avoid silly errors and improve speed, so please keep supporting your child with this at home as these should have been cracked by the end of Y4. It will give your child a significant advantage in maths.** Maths feels so much easier when you have this cracked so short regular practise is the best way forward with this. Any children who are more secure will move onto problem solving and reasoning applying these skills. Arithmetic questions will also be sent home as weekly homework.



Science

The focus for science will be observing and recording over the next half term. Children will make links to prior learning before starting to investigate how light travels and how light enables us to see. They will make predictions and record how the position of a light source affects the size and shape of a shadow. They will investigate the reflection of light and calculate the angle of incidence and reflection. After this, children will demonstrate how light can be refracted and observe and record how a prism changes a ray of light. They will deepen their understanding of how shadows are formed.



Art & Design

In art, Year 6 will be developing their drawing skills by using a variety of techniques to add interesting effects like shadows and reflections and how to depict movement and perspective. They will also use collage skills to create interesting effects. They will look at the work of Brian Clarke for inspiration. Year 6 will develop their drawing and painting skills and then choose their own medium to create their own final piece of artwork, inspired by Brian Clarke.

Computing

Year 6 computing focus will build on children's previous learning on coding. This term, we will be investigating how coding is used to write a program for a computer game. We will practice coding more complex commands using the coding commands of If, Then and Else to allow for different outcomes to happen to the characters within our games. Children will then adapt characters and game templates and code their own simple computer game.



MFL

This half term, we will start by recapping the vocabulary around colour and learn how French uses masculine, feminine and plural versions of the colour words, when describing the colour of a noun. To practise using these forms, we will learn about articles of clothing, and start to describe outfits. The children will translate full sentences from French to English, and write full sentences of their own in French, using the correct forms of nouns and adjectives.



Music

This term we will be learning more complicated rhythms and performing multiple parts using the samba instruments. We will learn patterns and choreographed movement and compose our own rhythms using our knowledge of samba music and the rhythmic patterns used to a create catchy beat! We will learn how to follow a leader and understand how to perform to specific hand signals or whistle sounds. For this challenge we will practice pieces to perform to the school at the end of the term!

PE

This half-term the children will continue work on improving tactics in team games and learning the skill of refereeing a short game. They will focus on skills such as selecting appropriate and accurate passes, finding opportunities to shoot and score in different ways, mark opponents effectively and dodge opponents when attacking. With Mrs Powell, Year 6 will then learn how to set up and safely use gymnastics equipment. They will complete work on balance, jumps, travel on apparatus at different heights and use different ways of mounting and dismounting the apparatus.



PSHE

Children will be taking part in workshops with the Leeds United Primary Choices Foundation throughout this half term to help with transition to secondary school. Y6 will also focus on the British Value of the Rule of Law. We will also learn about what 'personal space' means and how this links to respecting others. We will learn about the importance of consent and build on last term's learning about healthy relationships by looking at what manipulation means and how to spot the signs of grooming. We will finish the half term with Children's Mental Health Week and Bikeability.



History

Year 6 will be continuing topic lesson using WW1 as the stimulus. They will use sources of information to test hypothesis and address some misconceptions related to the experience of men and women in the past. They will learn about the inspirational Walter Tull and the barriers he overcame during WW1 and his football career. Year 6 will also learn about the use of art to convey messages and will develop their understanding of propaganda.



Our historical enquiry questions this half term in history will be:

What role did WWI play in changing British society that we see today? How can art be used to convey a message?

Homework

In response to parent and pupil feedback from previous years, not all homework will be online.

- Athletics and Reading Eggs online homework
- Spelling Shed with weekly tests
- Weekly arithmetic paper homework will be sent home weekly (due Fridays)
- Reading 5 times per week for 20 minutes **minimum** but longer is preferable to build reading stamina - this must be recorded in their diaries in the following way: name of book and pages read (e.g., War Horse pg. 24 to 41).
- Paper research projects as set (deadlines will be given on this homework)

Ways to Help Your Child

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we consider that strong school-parent links are an essential part of ensuring our pupils achieve their potential. We really appreciate the support you give your children at home in order to help them with their learning.

Please ensure that you **continue to listen to your child reading their school reading book** and write each time you listen in their homework diaries; listening to your child will improve their reading ability compared to leaving them to read alone. In addition, your child will have an advantage in English if **you read a book to them regularly**. Model good reading skills and use the AF questions to develop their comprehension. These are available on the school website.

The children's KIRF target **this half are listed below for you**. Please support your child at home with regular practice.



Year 6 KIRF Targets

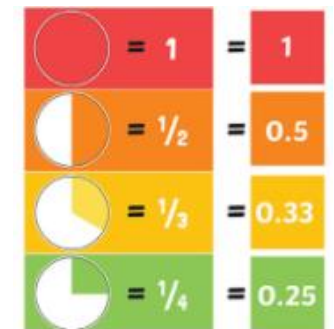
Aiming for White *

Convert fractions to decimals & percentages (tenths).



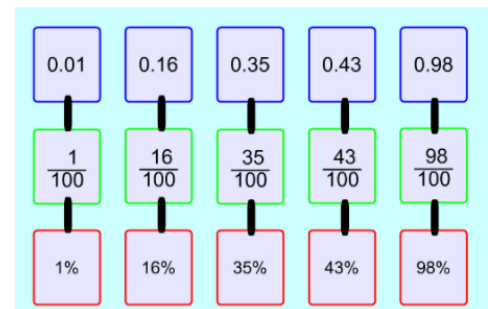
Aiming for Black **

Recall decimal fraction equivalents for $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$ and for multiples of these proper fractions



Aiming for Blue ***

Convert fractions to decimals & percentages (hundredths).



Aiming for Red ****

Compare fractions with different denominators



Aiming for Gold *****

Use common factors and multiples to simplify fractions

