

Year 6 Autumn 2024 Curriculum Guide

English

Pupils build on the skills they established in Year 5 and revise essential strategies as they continue to prepare for their 11+ exams throughout the term. They consolidate what they have learnt using a wide range of timed 11+ style exam papers, BOFA, Accelerated Reader and 10 minute multiple choice comprehension tests. Pupils read poems and extracts from fiction and non-fiction and study the way writers use their craft to communicate ideas in order for them to write effectively. We build on spoken language skills and confidence by inviting the pupils to share their ideas work in class more often.

Reading a variety of suitable Year 6 texts every day continues to be an essential part of the English Curriculum and regular Accelerated Reader tests are expected. Reading every day should be recorded in the Reading Record and spelling, punctuation and grammar continue to be revised and taught on a weekly basis. Homework includes comprehension, creative writing and weekly **online** BOFA activities.

Maths

During the autumn term the pupils will consolidate their knowledge of number work. They will look at investigating sequences; developing their understanding of place value, extending into negative numbers; and recap the formal methods of all four operations and applying these in word problems. The pupils will also look at measuring angles to a reasonable degree of accuracy; calculating angles in regular and irregular polygons; and constructing triangles.

In the second half of term the pupils will cover the following topics: fractions – using all four operations, simplifying, using mixed numbers; ratio – simplifying, solving word problems, scaling; decimals – being able to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000, rounding decimals to 3 decimal places, using all 4 operations; percentages – converting between fractions, decimals and percentages with ease and then able to order these, looking at recurring decimals; understand the difference between congruent and similar shapes.

The pupils will also be covering a variety of 11+ papers throughout the term.

Science

The first half term, the main themes are the elements, the nature of the atom, and the conservation of matter in chemical reactions. Specific topics include the properties and uses of metals, identifying metals by their densities, alloys and ores, flame tests on metal compounds, heating copper and magnesium in air, reversible reactions involving copper sulphate, an introduction to chemical formulae, and the history of the elements from the discovery of oxygen to radioactivity.

The second half term, our topic is healthy bodies, diet and exercise. We look at how our knowledge of a healthy diet has improved, the story of scurvy, and how the first clinical trial led to a cure. We look at the different 'food groups' and how they contribute to a balanced diet. We explore the circulatory system and its purpose in delivering food and oxygen to the body. We

learn how exercise affects the heart and muscles, the value of exercise, and why we need to warm-up/down. We conduct some clinical trials of our own to investigate whether certain types of exercise can improve mental performance. Finally, we look at drugs – how they affect the body, their benefits and dangers.

French

The key objectives in French are to engage our pupils and communicate our passion for French and modern languages in general, to unlock the full potential of our pupils' ability to speak and write French, to promote a love of speaking a foreign language through entertaining and engaging teaching techniques and to introduce our pupils to the culture, geography and history of France.

The topic areas and grammar for the autumn term are as follows: means of transports, verb to go (aller) in the present, places to go. Pocket money, spending habits, chores and opinions. Main irregular verbs in the present tense. Revision of opinion verbs, adjectives and connectives. Christmas vocabulary.

Latin

This year's Latin syllabus introduces new grammar, vocabulary and simple syntax and builds on the foundation of work covered in Years 4 and 5. During the Autumn Term, we will aim to recap this foundation work and then move on to cover Chapters 7 and 8 of Minimus 1 by Barbara Bell. The key objectives are: to engage and maintain both interest and curiosity about the Graeco-Roman world, to introduce pupils to aspects of the Latin language, to provide a stimulating environment for the development of skills related to the learning of Latin, to establish links between the Latin language and English and to introduce pupils to non-linguistic aspects of the ancient world with particular reference to Greek myth. The main grammatical foci will be: consolidating understanding of verb endings in the present tense (all persons), introducing the imperative, extending vocabulary.

History

This term, pupils learn about Britain in the nineteenth century. Specific topics are the war with France (including the life of Napoleon, and the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo), slavery (including the nature of the Atlantic slave trade, the campaign for abolition, and the American Civil War), the rise of the British empire (with special reference to India), the industrial revolution (its causes and consequences, including accounts of life in the mills and towns), political unrest and the danger of 'revolution', Victorian reforms (including the story of Shaftesbury's campaign against child labour), and the Irish famine (causes and consequences in Ireland and America). The key skills are chronological understanding, continuity and change, and an appreciation of causes and consequences.

Religious Studies

This term we shall study Christianity. The children will explore the themes of the Bible and identify familiar stories.

Geography

During the Autumn Term, the pupils will study coasts and the management of coastal environments (including coastal and oceanic pollution). They will also study OS maps, making use of four and six figure grid references.

Drama

Pupils will continue to develop their confidence in this subject through a variety of games, role-plays and performance. They will create their own characters and think about their role within a scene. All pupils will continue to develop their acting skills in preparation of the Year 6 play rehearsals which begin in the spring term.

Digital Skills

Year 6 this term are going to work through various Scratch coding exercises to improve their computational thinking skills further. We will also introduce Power-point presentation. Towards the end of term, we will cover Excel basics and the uses of spreadsheets. As with other year groups, we will revisit our touch-typing course and students will be encouraged to pursue this at home using our online Typing Club subscription. Online safety reminders and discussions will also feature heavily.

Art and design

Elements of art: Colour and Texture.

Study of Colour theory linked to a workshop based on Abstract Expressionism.

Learn about one point perspective. Understand why Henri Matisse is considered the artist who freed colour and created Fauvism. Create a painting based on his famous painting.

Design and Technology project: clocks

Use recycled materials, colours and texture to create working clocks. Learn the process of designing: brainstorming ideas, 2D sketches, 3D final design.

Games

Where possible pupils move to 9 a-side format of Football. Pupils are split into ability groups and train in squads for the football season. The objective is for each pupil to represent the school in competitive matches against other schools and for our better players to aspire to play in the A and B teams. All pupils travel to Sunbury Cricket Club for their Games Afternoons.

Music

Pupils will learn about West Africa and its musical instruments. They will study and learn to play a range of cyclic drumming patterns on dunun and djembe drums plus other hand-held African percussion instruments. They will learn an aural starting and stopping signal and will develop the ability to play in an ensemble, to feel the pulse, to watch and take cues from each other and from a 'master drummer'. They will also develop an understanding of structures within West African drumming music (including main groove, call and response, solo break, signal). Finally, they will compose their own 'African pieces' within a given framework inspired by traditional West African structures and work in small groups to develop, evaluate and improve their compositions as well as exploring ways of notating their work and developing rehearsal and ensemble skills. This project will continue until the February half term. In addition, pupils will prepare carols for the Christmas carol service.

Physical Education

Pupils will study health, exercise and related fitness along with basketball in the term. Pupils will understand the various notions of HRF and terms fundamental to used. This understanding will

allow them to think about how they prepare themselves to give a performance. A games for understanding approach is used in basketball to immerse pupils in playing the game.

Swimming

Pupils develop back stroke and butterfly further whilst looking at relay changeovers. Times are taken over 20 metres to measure improvement and the better pupils are invited to represent the school in competitive swimming galas both Nationally and against local opposition.