

Water Birds (Years 5 and 6)

Spring Term 1 2019



Children At War

This topic will help children understand the cause and effect of the Second World War and develop empathy with what it was like to be a child at the time. Lessons will look at significant events and their impact on the lives of real people during this period of history.

Maths and Literacy Foci:

Literacy: In literacy this half term Year 5 and Year 6 will be studying *Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian. This classic tale follows the life of Willie Beech as he is evacuated to the country as Britain stand on the brink of the Second World War. As we read about the way Willie flourishes under the care of Tom Oakley, it will inspire us to write dairies, letters, newspaper reports and detailed explanations.

There will be a **greater focus** this term on supporting Year 5 and 6 with their **Reading**. All children in Year 5 and 6 will be repeating the reading test we carried out at the start of the Autumn term. This will allow us to monitor progress and discover what further support is required in comprehension. This information will be shared with families so that we can work together to support further development.

As a school we are changing our approach to reading this term. A Dedicated reading lesson will be taught at the start of the day and these will have a particular focus on comprehension skills. In Years 5 and 6 we are beginning with **clarifying** before moving onto **inferring** and **predicting**. Please ask your child about these skills as the term progresses.

In addition to this whole class approach Year 5 will be looking at articles from short reading non-fiction texts and developing their comprehension skills.

Year 6 will continue to be split into small reading groups and work with an adult to deepen their understanding of texts.

Independent reading is a crucial skill. All children have been sent home with a **reading challenge card**. At the end of every book completed we would ask you to support your child in writing a brief book review. This will be used to encourage others in the class to read different texts and allow your child to gain one of their reading challenge stars.

Maths: This half term we will be focusing on addition and subtraction in multi-step problems, decimals including its use in measure, position and rotation of shapes and the introduction of algebra. There will be daily practise of division facts to 12 x 12. Please support your child with these at home.

For those children in Year 6 we will be analysing gaps in their understanding and working on these areas specifically. Particularly: Place value, properties of numbers, converting between units of measure, properties of shapes and use of algebra.

Curriculum Foci

Science: Science will be our key focus this term as we learn about **Light**. We will be considering how it travels, allows us to see and why light had to be controlled during WWII.

History: We will be using enquiry questions to gain a greater understanding of life during World War II and its impact on families.

Geography: We will be using maps and atlases to plot cities which needed to be evacuated and locations which were safe to receive evacuees.

Computing: We will be designing a set of instructions ready to convert into Scratch algorithms.

Art: We will be spending time looking at WWII propaganda posters before trying to make some of our own.

RE: We will be learning about the beliefs and practises of Sikhism and comparing these to Christianity. There will also be an opportunity for the Water bird Classes to visit St. Mary's Church to learn about the history of this historic building and the significance of the church to Christians.

PSHE: We will be considering how our actions affect others in the local and global community. We will be looking for opportunities to support our local environment.

PE: This term the children will be taking part in the Golden Mile, Dodgeball and gymnastics. Please can we remind families that PE kits need to come into school on a Monday and can be taken home on a Friday. PE kit should include a round necked gold or white T-shirt, black shorts, black / green tracksuit bottoms, trainers and spare socks. It is really important that all children change for PE, hair needs to be tied back and all jewellery / watches removed.

Home Learning Tasks

Maths and Literacy: This will be set weekly.

Homework will be handed out on a Thursday and returned to school the following Tuesday.

Reading: All children will be expected to read five times per week and record those pages read in their planner.

Spelling: Will be set weekly - children will be given an activity to complete based on the weekly spellings.

We would ask that parents and guardians sign their child's planner once a week ready for it to be handed in on a Friday.

Important dates for your diary:

Tuesday 15th January	WWII Experience Day
Thursday 17th January	Young Voice Concert (for those involved)
Wednesday 23rd January	Puffin assembly
Thursday 24th January	Kingfisher assembly
Wednesday 30th January	Indoor Athletics Competition (for selected participants)
Monday 11th February	Year 5 / Dodgeball competition (for selected participants)
Tuesday 5th March (3.30-5.00pm)	Parents evening
Thursday 7th March (5.00-8.00pm)	Parents evening
Tuesday 12th March	School nurse Health screening checks
Thursday 28th March	Year 5 & 6 Samba Drumming Concert (provisional date)
Thursday 4th April	KS2 Easter service at St Mary's church