

Year 6 Autumn Term Curriculum Guide 2021

English

The boys continue to build on the skills they established in Year 5 and revise essential strategies to complete exams in comprehension and writing. We use a range of past exam papers to encourage the boys to write in a variety of ways and read texts that are pre and post 1914. The boys read poems and extracts from fiction and non-fiction and study the way writer's use their craft to communicate ideas. We build on spoken language skills by inviting the boys to share their writing and debate interesting topics in class. A range of 11+ papers are used to help the boys prepare for their senior school exams.

Maths

During the autumn term the boys 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 boys 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 boys 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 boys will also be covering a variety of 11+ papers throughout the term.

Science

Before 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. After half term, boys study bodily health, diet, and exercise. They learn how our understanding of a good diet has improved over history by considering the story of scurvy, the importance of clinical trials in determining which foods are good/bad for us, the different food groups and how they contribute to a healthy diet, the role of the circulatory system in transporting nutrients, why we need glucose and oxygen (respiration), and what the waste products are, how exercise affects your pulse and why, the function of muscles and our main muscle groups, how to build a healthy heart, why we need to warm up/down when exercising, how drugs affect the body, how drugs can be both harmful and beneficial, which substances count as drugs, and the dangers of 'taking drugs', especially the danger of addiction.

French

The French syllabus introduces new grammar and vocabulary but builds on the foundation of work covered in Year 5. 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. Last weekend, introduction to perfect tense and revision of activities. Pocket money, spending habits, chores and opinions. Christmas vocabulary. The key objectives 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; to introduce our pupils to the culture, geography and history of France, Britain's nearest neighbours; to encourage independent learning, using dictionaries and the Internet for research.

History

The Year 6 syllabus will continue with the High Middle Ages following on from King William I (Norman Conquest). We shall study the power of the Church, then the crusades and then King John (Magna Carta). Lastly we will end with the Later Middle Ages and kings Edward I and II (Welsh and Scottish wars) and the 100 Years War, heralding in the Tudor dynasty. The key skills will be chronological understanding, continuity and change and an appreciation of causes and consequences.

RS

During the autumn term boys will learn about the main events surrounding Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. They will also learn about St Paul and his importance in the spread of Christianity.

Geography

Key Objectives:

- To understand coastal processes
- To identify features of coastal erosion and deposition
- To understand which coastal defence systems are used in the UK
- To understand the causes and possible solutions to plastic pollution in the oceans
- To use 4 and 6 figure grid references on OS maps
- To establish direction and distance on OS maps
- To identify coastal features on OS maps

Latin

The Latin syllabus introduces new grammar, vocabulary and simple syntax and builds on the foundation of work covered in Year 4. During the Autumn Term, we will aim to recap this foundation work and then move on to cover Chapters 5 and 6 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 boys 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 boys to non-linguistic aspects of the ancient world with particular reference to Greek myth.

Drama

In the autumn term we study a Shakespeare play, this year we are reading 'Macbeth'. We explore the key scenes and how we may imagine the play from different perspectives. We discuss staging, characters, plot and themes.

Music

Boys will learn about West Africa and its musical instruments. They will study a range of cyclic drumming patterns and play them on the relevant drums/instruments including dunun and djembe.

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.

Digital Skills/ICT

Year 6 this term are going to work through various Scratch coding exercises to improve their computational thinking skills further. We will also introduce Python to take their coding understanding one step further. 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

This thread art project has been adapted slightly from the previous year in that the boys will now produce the silhouette of an animal, rather than their own initials. Panel pins will be hammered neatly along the perimeter of an animal's outline and they will then have to use care, precision and judgement in order to form a web of threads in a creative fashion across the shapes and borderlines. Visual success is a given...thumb survival is not!

Games

In Year 6 where possible boys move to 9 a-side format of the game. Boys are split into ability groups and train in squads for the football season. The objective is for each boy 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 boys travel to Sunbury Cricket Club for their Games Afternoons.

PE

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 boys in playing the game.

Swimming

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

NVR and VR

During the autumn term the boys will be focussing on accuracy and speed in tackling a range of written and online problems

VR is taught in form groups and we cover a range of skills including all aspects of the English language. In the autumn term we study how to understand and use plurals, homophones and correct grammar.