

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

This curriculum newsletter provides you with an overview of the learning your child will enjoy over the Autumn term.

Year 6

Welcome to Year 6 - the final year of primary school! This year the year 6 classes are taught by Mrs Atkin (6A) and Miss Badcock (6B). Our first Autumn term learning challenge has themes that are very relevant to modern day Britain as we explore the history of the transatlantic slave trade and the colonisation of Africa. In the second half of the Autumn term we will focus on Frozen Kingdoms. This geography project teaches children about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and includes a detailed exploration of the environmental factors that shape and influence them. Don't forget to apply for your child's place at your preferred secondary school by 31st of October. Most secondary schools hold open days and many are able to offer tours if you miss these.

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge: Maafa: What, who, when, where and WHY?
Throughout the first half of the Autumn term our main learning challenge will be history based as we study Africa's past and present and the development of the slave trade. The children will explore Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora.

KEY VOCABULARY: abolish, chattel, colonisation, diaspora, discrimination, emancipation, enslavement, indigenous, *maafa*, rebellion, resistance and slavery.

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge: Frozen Kingdoms: Can a desert be cold?

In the second half of the Autumn term we will learn about polar landscapes, the Arctic and Antarctic regions, natural resources in these regions and indigenous peoples of the regions. We will also consider polar day and night as well as learning about polar explorations.

KEY VOCABULARY: Antarctic Circle Antarctica Arctic Circle Arctic region boreal forest carbon footprint climate climate change crevasse equator glacier

English



In our reading lessons, we will study the text Freedom by Catherine Johnson in which an enslaved Jamaican boy is separated from his family and taken to work in England. His owners, the Barratts, treat him cruelly, but he is determined to escape and earn the money needed to buy his family's freedom. While in London, he attends the *Zong* slave ship's court hearing and learns about the horrors that took place on board. The children will write a historical narrative using the wordless picture book 'Unspoken' by Henry Cole and we will also use 'Freedom Bird' by Jerdine Nolen to write in character and to ultimately write an biography of Olaudah Equiano an abolitionist who once freed from his enslavement lived in Soham. In the second half of the term we will study The Wolf Wilder by Katherine



Rundell in our reading lessons and we will use *The Arctic Railway Assassin* - MG Leonard and Sam Sedgman to inspire us to write narratives with a mystery theme. This term we will revise the grammar taught previously before introducing the Year 6 content and we will focus on ensuring all children are familiar with the Y6 statutory spelling words.

Maths

Maths this term will focus on the understanding of numbers to 10 million and applying this knowledge to a variety of contexts. Following this we will revise calculation strategies for addition and subtraction of whole numbers, decimal numbers and fractions applying this knowledge to a wide range of reasoning and problem solving tasks. New learning will include how to efficiently calculate multiplications and divisions using larger numbers (long division and long multiplication) as well as learning how to multiply and divide fractions. Our final maths topic we will convert both metric and imperial measurements for weight, length and distance.

Overview of all subjects within the wider curriculum

Geography: Revision of basic map skills and knowledge with a focus on climate change

PE: Dance and tag rugby in the first half term and fitness circuits and gymnastics in the second half term.

Science: Biology: The Circulatory System

Computing: Algorithms for searching, sorting and maths; coding and physical computing.

PSHE: Beginning and belonging and healthy lifestyles including anti-bullying and e-safety.

RE: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Judaism); Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhism)

Art: Hints, tints, tones and shades in relation to landscapes; a study of significant black artists and their work through analysis and creating artwork inspired by them. / Inuit Art

DT: To be taught in the Spring Term

Music: Music and Technology and Developing ensemble skills

French: Children will continue to build on their knowledge from Y5 and learn to hold longer conversations. They will learn numbers to 20 and consolidate their knowledge of colours and the names of animals.

Useful Information

Home Learning: Spelling activities will be set weekly on a Friday and will be tested the following Wednesday. A homework grid will be sent home with a variety of tasks for the children to complete over the term. All children should read daily (20 mins minimum) to develop skills and build stamina.

PE kit: Usually on Wednesday and Thursday for both classes although this may change so kits should be in school all week if possible. Children need shorts, jogging bottoms / leggings, t-shirt, jumper/hoody and suitable footwear. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, so children must be able to remove their own if they are worn. All other jewellery must also be removed.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a 'learning-filled' Autumn Term.

Websites that may be useful

[NSPCC](#) Keeping your child safe, also excellent source of information for children on a range of issues including peer pressure, relationships and keeping themselves safe

[Thinkuknow](#) Keeping safe online for children and young people as well as parents

[Home - BBC Bitesize](#) Support for all subjects including maths and English

[Topmarks](#) Great games like Hit the Button and Bingo for maths practise

[Cambridgeshire Libraries](#) A wealth of books for you to borrow and we are lucky to have a library in Littleport

[KS2 Maths - 65 Enjoyable Quizzes for Children aged 7 to 11](#) Self marking quizzes for maths

[Spellings MENU - Key Stage 2 Literacy](#) Spelling games

[Spelling games, tests and activities](#) Spelling games