

Spring Term

Dear children and parents of Yr. 6

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a restful and healthy Christmas break and hopefully you were able to catch up with friends and family. Autumn term was the most challenging term we have faced in education, and we would like to congratulate your children on their commitment and resilience to their learning. They have all worked incredibly hard to maintain their focus and passion in the classroom. We are incredibly proud of them.



It is hard to believe we are now in spring term already, a term that holds much excitement and opportunity to shine. The term culminates in our 3 day residential to Grafham Water. (18th-20th May) We are keeping everything crossed that there are no changes to restrictions affecting our visit, the children have sadly missed out on so many school trips and overnight stays as a result of Covid, that this is going to be a super exciting way to end the term. We are currently putting a plan together for the 3 days, working out which activities to include. If you would like to know more about the facilities, please feel free to take a peek at their website.

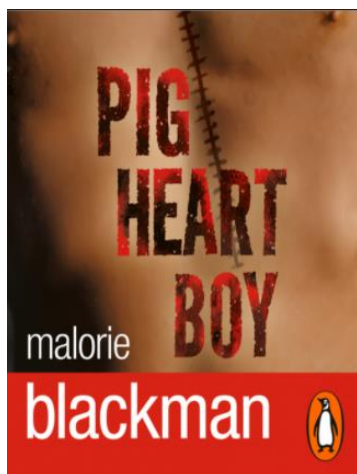
<https://www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk/schools-colleges-and-youth-groups/residential-visits/>



The subject coverage

English

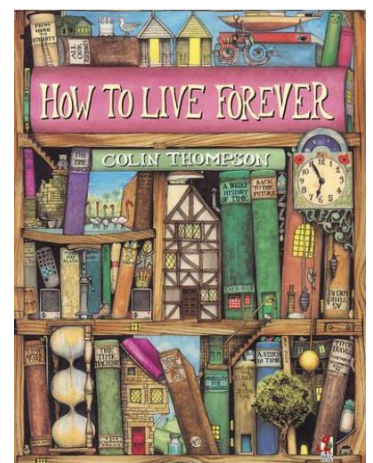
In English this term we will be reading the following 2 books as part of our daily comprehension lesson.



You're thirteen. All you want is a normal life. But most normal kids don't need heart transplants.

So there's this doctor. He says there's a chance for you. But he also says it's experimental, controversial and risky. And it's never been done before.

The story of a missing book, a child who holds the secret of everlasting life and a library that comes to life at night



The books will link to our science unit on the circulatory system, where the children will learn about their blood – what it is made of and why they need it - how to keep healthy and the importance of nutrients and how their heart works and what it looks like on the inside. They will make connections in their learning and use what they have learnt to write their very own explanatory text in writing.

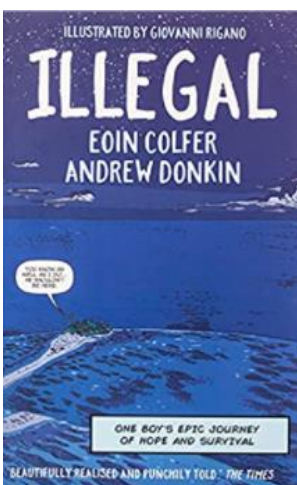
Reading remains the most important part of school life and homework. We read every day in class and the children are expected to read every day at home. We read high-quality fiction and non-fiction texts that challenge and inspire. They are all vocabulary rich, and the children are excellent at defining and using the new vocabulary. Reading is an essential skill for life and the more we read and the more diverse our reading education is the more we are giving our children the opportunity to experience and develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live. Our goal is for all of our children to be able to read fluently, and with confidence, preparing them for their secondary education and the world that lies ahead of them.

We will be introducing a new reading at home scheme in spring term that will monitor home reading as well as school reading, this will be a new whole school initiative and more information will be given shortly.

Yr6 Spring Term – Recommended Reads

Nightfall in New York by Katherine Woodfine

The gloriously atmospheric and enigmatic quest story sees young heroines Sophie and Lil cross the Atlantic Ocean to New York in search of their captive friend. However, the dangerous and shadowy Fraternitas have other ideas and will stop at nothing to thwart their rescue attempt.



Illegal by Eoin Colfer

A thrilling graphic novel with sparkling text. Ebo is left alone when his brother disappears and his sister has already fled. Now he must set out on an epic and dangerous journey across deserts and through dangerous city streets to reach the sea, and a chance to escape and find his family.

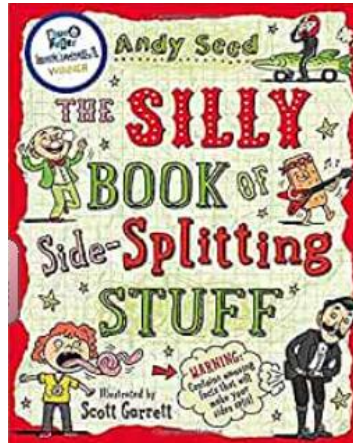


Cogheart by Peter Bunzl

When her father goes missing in mysterious circumstances, Lily's life is in sudden danger. Who took her father, and what do they want? A great page-turner book for ten-year-olds set in a steampunk Victorian world of shadowy clockmakers.



Time Travelling With a Hamster by Ross Welford
 A moving and memorable story about time travel. When Al reads a letter it sets off a chain of events in which he races to travel back to 1984 to try and save his late father.

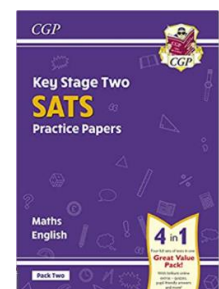
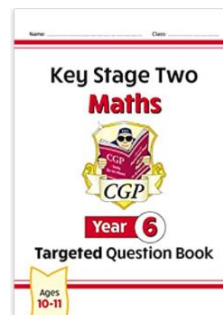


The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff by Andy Seed
 An extremely funny book of facts and true stories. Bright and engaging illustrations.

Maths

In maths this term we begin with equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages and calculating percentages of amount. We then look at algebra at the end of this half term. In spring term 2 we will look at perimeter, area and volume and then finish the term with ratio. Throughout the term we continue with our weekly arithmetic. Progress with arithmetic scores has been up and down this term, with many children experiencing increases one week followed by a decrease in their score the next. Our class average sits at 26/40. To support the children in arithmetic some children will receive targeted interventions to support them with the questions that they are regularly making errors in. On Showbie are additional arithmetic practice papers the children can do if they would like to work on extra at home.

In addition to our core teaching we will also be preparing the children for their SATs tests with daily reasoning and problem solving questions. The reasoning papers are the tests which the children find more challenging, we will recap on key methods, look at the meaning of mathematical vocabulary and teach the children how to break down the steps within the questions carefully. If the children would like to do extra practice at home, these books available on Amazon are excellent.



Curriculum Subjects

In **science** our topic for spring term 1 is the circulatory system, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

The Circulatory System

1. What is blood made of and why do we need it?
2. Why do our bodies need nutrients and how are they transported?
3. What is our circulatory system
4. What is our heart like inside? How does it work?
5. Who influenced what we know about our circulatory system?
6. What can we do to keep healthy?

In Spring 2 the children will learn about water transportation, they will study these 2 questions:

Water Transportation

1. Where are the kidneys and what do they do
2. How do the kidneys keep us healthy?

In **Geography** this spring term we are learning about physical processes: earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes. We will study these questions.

Physical processes: earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes

1. What makes up the layers of planet Earth
2. What are tectonic plates and where do you find them?
3. How do tectonic plates move and what happens?
4. What causes an earthquake and what is the effect?
5. How are mountains formed?
6. How do volcanoes work?

In **History** this term our topic is the Battle of Britain, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

The Battle of Britain

1. Why did Britain declare war on Germany in 1939?
2. Why was rationing introduced?
3. Why were people evacuated from cities?
4. What happened in the Battle of Britain?
5. What happened in the Battle of Britain?
6. How did conflict change society in the Second World War?

Other subject overview

Our computing topic for the half term will focus on Bletchley Park, the world's first computer system: enigma. We will look at how the enigma machine was used in the war and how computers have evolved over time. In PSHE we look at our dreams, goals and aspirations for 2022. Thinking about positive attitudes, and how they can help themselves and others to achieve their goals. The PSHE links well with our residential as team work and communication is an integral part of the 3 days.

In Art this term we will be focusing on printmaking and textiles. By the end of this unit children will know about Batik. We will apply wax, or an alternative, to the surface of fabric and dye it to create coloured designs. We will also learn drawing techniques to create perspective and the illusion of depth to a drawing. We will work together to create a simple one-point perspective sketches, enlarge elements of our sketch and explore different ways of printing an image.

In DT children will be learning about food and nutrition. The title of the unit is 'Does food affect the way you feel?' In this unit, children will learn the difference between slow release and quick release carbohydrates and how food can improve their mood and energy levels. Children will also be able to dice, slice, peel, grate and cook a range of vegetables, make a pasta sauce, a noodle dish and a salad, and use height and colour to improve the visual appeal of food. We will look forward to tasting our delicious dishes too!

In Music we will be using the song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams as the focal point for our learning. We will be learning the song and using glockenspiels to play part of the melody. We will explore what it means to improvise and use the glockenspiels to improvise with the backing track.

PE routines & PE kit expectations

We continue to have double PE on a Wednesday, both of the sessions, where possible will be outdoors. Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy. We recommend children have shorts and t-shirt for inside or as the weather begins to warm up, but also a tracksuit and gloves for outdoors as it will be cold for the first part of this term. On PE days it is important the children have a second pair of outdoor shoes in school (wellies would be ideal) that they can wear at playtimes and lunchtime to avoid mud on their trainers coming back onto the carpets in the classroom.

Playtimes

Playtimes remain on the field, although the field is muddy there is much more space for the children to run around and the risk of accidents is far reduced. It is vital, however, that the children have a change of outdoor shoes because the classroom gets incredibly dirty when children do not. Additionally to avoid dirty trousers and shorts children can bring in spare joggers or waterproofs to wear over the top of their uniform. Even when we ask the children to be careful in the mud they undoubtedly get hit by the ball in their shins or run and have wet mud flick up the back of them. Thank you for your support with this.

Homework

Homework will continue to be maths and English each week, given out on a Wednesday and due back in the following Wednesday. Homework club is a Monday lunchtime for anyone stuck and in need of help. In addition children are expected to read each day and practice their times tables on TTRS.



Meanwhile, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Fingers crossed the term goes smoothly with as little Covid disruption as possible.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Mrs Morris and Mrs Ratcliffe