

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Year 6 parents/carers,

Year 6 Curriculum Letter - Autumn (2nd half)

Message from the teachers

Welcome back! Well done for working so hard during the first half term – we hope you have managed to reenergise, ready to build on from our previous learning. This half term, we have got some fantastic activities lined up, ranging from our trip to the Battle of Britain Bunker in December and the festive build up in the lead up to Christmas. This letter will further outline all of the interesting things we will be learning in class.

Our Core Values

Happiness: we spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: we care and are kind to all.

Respect: we treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: we work well with everyone.

Year 6 Staffing

Aspen class teacher: Mr Coren

Beech class teacher: Miss Rowe

Additional Year 6 teacher: Mrs Pankhania

Year 6 learning support assistant: Mrs Marks

Communication

Please feel free to arrange a meeting should you wish to speak to one of the teachers in person. Alternatively, you can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

aspenclass@harefieldjunior.com

beechclass@harefieldjunior.com

Homework

Homework will be printed and sent home weekly on Fridays. Pupils will be expected to complete a variety of activities, including spellings and handwriting, reading comprehension, grammar and punctuation, and arithmetic. These need to be completed by the following Friday. If your child requires support with any of the questions in their homework, please encourage them to speak to their class teacher before it is due in.

Reading at home

We regularly assess the children's reading ages and home reading books, at the appropriate reading level, are sent home every Monday. Please remember to send these books back to school each Monday.

We will also visit the school library each Friday on a fortnightly basis, from where the children can select a book to borrow and read at home. Please return these books to school once your child has finished reading it. New home reading books and library books will not be issued until the previous ones have been returned.

Autumn Term Learning

This half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

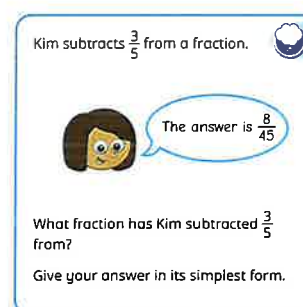
English

After half term, we will be reading 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian. We will use this text to write 'meeting tale' narrative stories, where children will write stories about two characters from different backgrounds meeting each other. We will also be using this story to support us in writing a non-narrative instructional text, where children will write a set of instructions about how to survive during the Second World War, e.g. building a shelter, preparing for blackouts.



Mathematics

In Maths this half term, Year 6 will be diving deep into fractions where they will consolidate their knowledge of equivalent fractions and comparing and ordering fractions. The children will then apply their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills to improper fractions and mixed numbers. Additionally, Year 6 will be exploring percentages and begin to make links between fractions, decimals and percentages.



Physical Education

The two P.E. units in Year 6 this half term are 'Invasion Games' and 'Dance: Electricity'. The Invasion Games unit recaps on the fundamental skills needed to play a range of invasion games, such as dribbling with the ball, passing and keeping possession. It also covers attacking skills, such as shooting and changing direction with the ball in football using the drag back and stop turn. Defending skills such as shadowing and tackling are also covered. In Dance: Electricity, children will learn how to perform a dance using a range of different techniques required in the art of dance, including the skill of improvisation and how to move with precision, control and fluency. Both Year 6 classes will have a PE session on a Tuesday. Aspen class will have their second PE session on Friday. Please ensure children come in to school wearing weather appropriate clothing in line with the school uniform.

Swimming

Swimming lessons will be taking place each Friday afternoon for Beech class this half term. For the autumn term, lessons will start on Friday 7th November and take place every Friday until Friday 12th December 2025.

Music

We are very fortunate to have a specialist music teacher in school every Monday and Wednesday to teach Year 6 music lessons, where children learn to play a variety of instruments as well as writing their own music.



Computing

The Computing unit this term will continue to be 'Spreadsheets', which allows children to gain an understanding of spreadsheets and how they can be used, including how to format and enter specific formulas. They will then use their skills in using spreadsheets to solve specific problems.

Design & Technology

This half term, Year 6 will focus on a 'Marbulous Structures' unit, where children will develop their understanding of complex free standing structures and how they can be strengthened and reinforced. Children will gain knowledge and understanding about how to join and shape materials before applying these skills to work collaboratively to design and create a marble run.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education:

The PSHE topic for this half term is 'Celebrating Difference'. Year 6 will discuss the importance of not making judgements by the appearance of something, understanding what bullying is and how to prevent it from happening, before concluding by celebrating the many differences that make us unique.

In **Science** Year 6 will be learning about 'Electricity' and 'Renewable Energy', which is one of our sustainability units that we are learning about this year – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **History** Year 6 will be learning about 'World War II', how and why it began, and they will find out about the key individuals and countries that were involved – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **Religious Education** Year 6 will be continuing to learn about Christianity with a specific focus on 'The Christmas Story' – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **French** Year 6 will be learning the topic 'Let's Go Shopping', where they will learn about the shopping experience in France, using their prior knowledge of colours to help them identify clothes – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

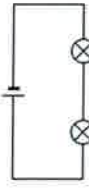
Please feel free to contact us via the class email accounts should you have any questions over the term ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Coren and Miss Rowe
Year 6 teachers

Key Vocabulary

Series circuit - A circuit where all the components are in one single loop.



Cell - A source of electrical power (voltage).



Battery - A source of electrical power (voltage). A battery is more than one cell.



Bulb - A component in a circuit that produces light.



Current - The flow of electricity in a circuit.



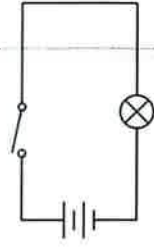
Voltage - A measure of how strong the current is in a circuit. This is provided by the cell/battery.



Complete circuit - Circuits that do not have breaks in them.



Incomplete circuit - Circuits that have breaks in them, such as an open switch.



Switch - Allows current in a circuit to be turned on and off.



Buzzer - A component that makes a buzzing or beeping sound.



Independent variable (what will change) - The voltage, or the number of batteries.



Dependent variables (what will be measured) - The brightness of the bulbs and the loudness of the buzzers.



Controlled variables (what is kept the same) - The type of batteries used and the number of components in the circuit.



Repeatability - The likelihood of getting similar results if the experiment is carried out again.

Attempt 1

Number of batteries	Brightness of bulb
1	dim
2	brighter
3	brightest

Attempt 2

Number of batteries	Brightness of bulb
1	dim
2	brighter
3	brightest

Accuracy - How close a result is to the standard value. Accuracy can be improved by the quality of the equipment used.



Evaluation - To consider the quality of the results obtained and suggest improvements to the investigation.

Knowledge

- A series circuit is where all the components are in one continuous loop.
- Components in a series circuit include the battery, buzzers, wires, bulbs and switches.
- Each component in a circuit has a symbol.
- Current is the flow of electricity in a circuit.
- Voltage is a measure of how strong the current is in a circuit. Voltage is provided by the cell/battery.
- For a circuit to be complete, all the components, including a battery, are connected by wires and the switch is closed.
- An incomplete circuit may have a break in the wires, a switch may be open or the battery is the wrong way in the holder.
- The current does not flow at all in an incomplete circuit.
- The more components there are in a circuit, the dimmer the bulbs and the quieter the buzzers.
- The more components there are in a circuit, the more difficult it is for current to flow.

Timeline

1939	1 st September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 th July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 th September	The Blitz begins.
1941	22 nd June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1943	16 th and 17 th May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies .
	6 th and 9 th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

100

AD 1900

1901 – Queen Victoria dies

1914-1918 – World War I

1928 – All women given right to vote

1939-1945 – World War II

1953 – Coronation of Elizabeth II

1969 – First Moon landing

AD 2000

1991 – World Wide Web launched

Rationing

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

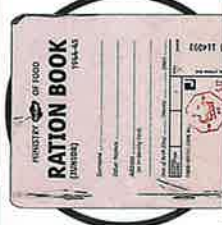
Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

1998

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible.

Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible.

Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.



A ration book

Key Vocabulary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
atomic bomb	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
active service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

How Did World War II Start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and **annexed** Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to **annex** the Sudetenland (an area of **Czechoslovakia**) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of **Czechoslovakia**, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for **active service**, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves.

After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.

The Holocaust

The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the **Nazi party**. Even before the war, they wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used **propaganda** to promote widespread public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against.

Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.

Key Vocabulary

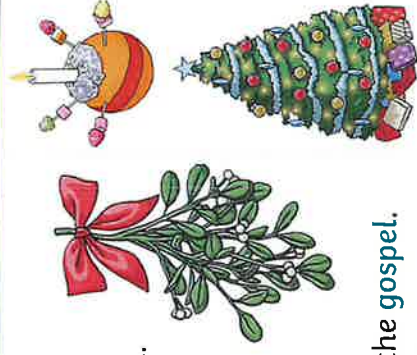
Nativity	The story of the birth of Jesus Christ.
significant	Something that is important enough to be noticed and spoken about or has a special meaning.
interpret	To decide on the meaning of something based on the evidence that you have. Different people may interpret things in different ways.
recount	To retell the events of something that has happened.
compare	To find the similarities and differences between things.
gospel	The record of Christ's life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament (part of the Bible).

Christians all believe that the Christmas Story is **significant**. However, some Christians view the story in a **metaphorical** way while other Christians believe the story is literally true.

Christmas Customs

There are lots of different ways that people celebrate Christmas and Advent:

- Christmas trees **symbolise** the everlasting life of God.
- Mistletoe is a **symbol** of peace and joy and is used to show friendship and goodwill.
- **Advent** calendars, wreaths and candles are different ways of counting down to Jesus' birthday.
- Christingles symbolise the importance of Jesus and the **gospel**.



'The Nativity' Story

The Christmas Story is also called 'The **Nativity**'. In this story, an angel appeared to Mary and told her that she was going to have a baby and that he would be the Son of God and he would be called Jesus. While Mary was pregnant, a census took place and she and Joseph (her husband) had to travel to Bethlehem — their town of birth. When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room at any inns for them to stay in but they were allowed to stay in a stable. This is where Jesus was born. Angels told shepherds on a hillside that the Son of God had been born so they went to visit him in Bethlehem. Wise men spotted a bright star in the sky and knew this meant a king had been born so they went to visit with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. King Herod heard that a new king had been born from the wise men and ordered that all the baby boys in the area be killed. An angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and Mary and warned them, so they travelled to Egypt with baby Jesus and were safe.



Key Vocabulary		Advent		Different Advent Celebrations Around the World	
literal	Words that are exactly true in the way that they are written.	Churches prepare to celebrate the arrival of Jesus during Advent. They may wear purple and decorate the church in purple as it symbolises royalty and reminds Christians that Advent is a time for prayer, reflection and preparation.  		Christmas is celebrated in different ways around the world. In Sweden, it is celebrated on 13th December as Saint Lucia's Day. It is to honour a girl who was put to death for her Christian beliefs in Roman times (when people were expected to worship Roman Gods). Saint Lucia was caught feeding Christians, who were hiding in caves.	
metaphorical	Words are used to build imagery in the mind and things may be symbolic of something else.				
Advent	Advent is the time of waiting for Christmas, which marks the arrival of Jesus to Earth just over 2000 years ago. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve.	Saint Luke's Account of the Nativity <i>Interpretations</i> of the Nativity are different in the Bible. Saint Luke's account of the Christmas story focuses on the poor and vulnerable. He focuses on: - the angel appearing to Mary to say a baby would be born; - Mary and Joseph having to go to Bethlehem because of the census; - Mary and Joseph having to stay in a stable and Jesus being born there; - the visitors to Jesus (the shepherds) seeing an angel and being poor; - Jesus being laid in a manger (a food trough).  		Saint Matthew's Account of the Nativity <i>Interpretations</i> of the Nativity are different in the Bible. Saint Matthew's account of the Christmas story focuses on power. He focuses on: - the importance of the sign of the star after Jesus' birth; - the visitors to Jesus being very clever people – the wise men; - the expensive gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men; - Herod, the king, being jealous of the birth of a new king and feeling angry. 	
symbolism	When pictures, colours or objects are used to represent more complicated ideas.				
Saint Matthew	One of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Saint Matthew wrote the first book in the New Testament of the Bible.				
Saint Luke	One of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Saint Luke wrote the third book in the New Testament of the Bible.				

Let's Go Shopping

Key Vocabulary – French Money

	cinq euros		un euro		dix centimes
	dix euros		deux euros		cinq centimes
	vingt euros		cinquante centimes		deux centimes
	cinquante euros		vingt centimes		un centime

Key Vocabulary – Shopping Conversations

Bonjour, Madame/Mademoiselle/Monsieur

Hello, madam/miss/sir

Je voudrais... I would like...	le/la/les the (m/f/plural)	un/une a/an (m/f)	du/de la/de l'/des some (m/f/plural)
C'est combien ? How much is it?	C'est... euros. It's... euros.	Voici... Here is...	Voici votre monnaie. Here is your change.
s'il vous plaît please	Merci (beaucoup). Thank you (very much).		Au revoir ! Goodbye!



Key Knowledge and Grammar

Money

- In English, the pound sign comes before the money amount. In French, the euro sign comes **after** the amount. Euros and cents are separated by a comma as opposed to a full stop.
- It's more common to say **C'est deux euros quarante** (It's 2,40€), although it is also acceptable to say **C'est deux euros quarante centimes**.

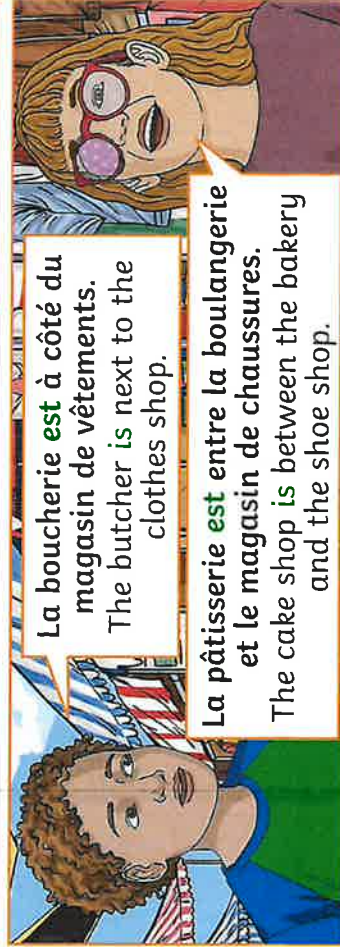
Numbers

- When the number is a multiple of 100, there is an **s** on **cents**, e.g. **quatre-cent**s**** (400). However, if there are other numbers after the hundred, then there is no **s** on the end of **cent**, e.g. **quatre-cent-cinquante** (450).
- There is an **s** on **vingts** in **quatre-vingts** (80) but if there are other numbers after **vingt**, then there is no **s** at the end, e.g. **quatre-vingt-dix** (90).

Key Vocabulary – At the Shops

Où est... ? Where is...?

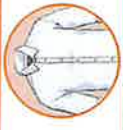
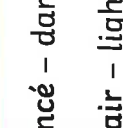
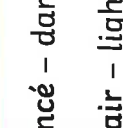
	le magasin de chaussures (m)		la fromagerie (f)		la boucherie (f)
	la boulangerie (f)		la pâtisserie (f)		la bijouterie (f)
	le magasin de jouets (m)		le magasin de vêtements (m)		la confiserie (f)
à côté de next to		entre between			
Remember that if a noun is feminine, use de la. If the noun is masculine, use du.					



La boucherie **est** à côté du magasin de vêtements.
The butcher is next to the clothes shop.

La pâtisserie **est** entre la boulangerie et le magasin de chaussures.
The cake shop is between the bakery and the shoe shop.

Key Vocabulary – All About Clothes

	un manteau (m)		une jupe (f)		une chemise (f)		un pull (m)
	bleu/bleue		blanc/blanche		jaune		noir/noire
	rouge		vert/verte		gris/grise		violet/violette
	marron		orange		rose		foncé – dark
							clair – light

Key Knowledge and Grammar

Adjectives

- In French, almost all adjectives go after the noun, e.g. un pull **bleu** (a blue jumper).
- Some colours have a feminine form when describing a feminine noun e.g. une jupe **bleue** (a blue skirt).
- If you add 'dark' or 'light' to the colour, it does not need to change to agree in gender or number, e.g. une jupe vert foncé (a dark green skirt), une chemise rose **clair** (a light pink skirt).