

Year 6 Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

Welcome back to school for what will be your final seven months at St Mary's. We trust you all had a lovely Christmas holiday - *all of the Year 6 staff would like to say a sincere "THANK YOU" for some lovely Christmas cards and gifts - too generous!*

We have a busy, varied and hard-working term ahead of us but don't worry; it's nothing you can't handle.

Below are some of the topics we will cover:

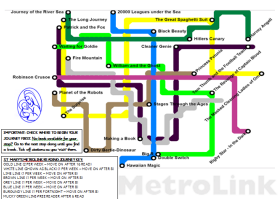
Literacy

Variety is important, so we will be reading and writing from a range of genres including narrative and non-narrative, formal and impersonal writing. We begin with looking at how writing can show such a variety of emotions and how it can impact on the reader - we will be looking at the tragedy that was the sinking of the **Titanic** and how it may have been for the poor souls who witnessed the events in 1912.



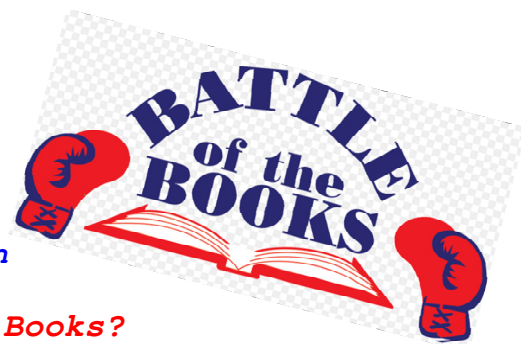
We study the Mayan Civilization in history this term, and so as part of this, we will produce a non-chronological report based on what we discover. During our work, we will be building paragraphs from a lead sentence, and linking both paragraphs and sentences using more complex connectives.

In spelling we will recap rules & common spelling patterns.



Remember: "Knowledge is power!"

Are you reading enough at home?
Are you reading a variety of text types? Make sure to tick off books selected from your reading line on the metro map.



**How are you doing with Battle of the Books?
12 key texts read gets you the reading badge, a green-screen review and a certificate.**

Numeracy

Our maths work will cover a range of topics. We will continue to learn methods of $+$ $-$ $/$ \times and to use these to solve problems.



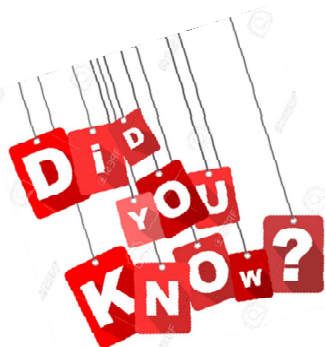
We will look at:

averages and graphs and charts
fractions, decimals and percentages
formulae and simple algebra
shape including translation, reflection & rotation.



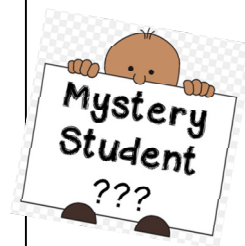
It is important that you try hard to remember what you have learnt and to build on it to help your future learning.

IXL.COM is a free great resource. Use them at home to recap areas where you know that you struggle.



One of the **top pupils in class** has spent nearly 35 hours and answered over 4000 questions studying on IXL.COM *in their own time since* September! How amazing is that?

This pupil regularly does well in all tests. It is no coincidence: it is just hard work! **"You get out what you put in!"** That's what pays off...and with just 4 months until SATs tests, NOW is the time to get serious about your learning. Little and often is what works best.



Science



How do submarines see above the surface of the water?

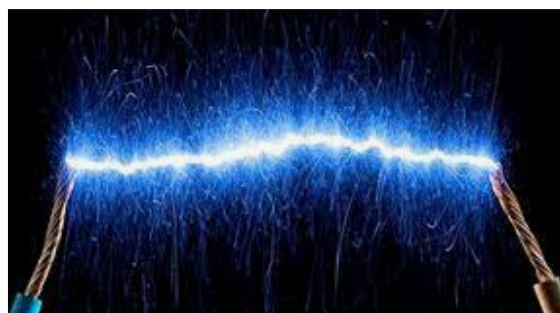
(Physics - light)

What happens when you flick a switch? (Physics - electricity)



We will have many chances to do some fun, practical activities - such as making a periscope to spy on the headteacher's office.

We will also try to remember all the elements of an electrical circuit whilst learning which variables change the effectiveness of it.



History - Non-European Society

What deadly games did the Maya play?

How and where did people live?
What was this like in contrast with Britain
and the rest of the world?
What did the Maya bring to the world?



PE

It's best to **keep both indoor and outdoor kits in school** at all times until the weekend when it may need a wash. **We aim to do PE on Monday and Thursday this term.** We will be working on gymnastics and athletics, dance and orienteering.

Religious Education (R.E)

We look at Exodus - why is this event so important and what does it symbolise? We also study 'What happens after Jesus left'? The events of Pentecost and the Ascension.

Design Technology (D.T)



We aim to begin to design and make our very own simple electrical vehicles this term - although this topic may be an ongoing project!

ART

The works of Banksy and Kelzo will inspire us to try our hand at the sometimes controversial but always intriguing styles of 'Street Art' that are out there.

MUSIC

We continue to explore 'texture' in our sessions, building on what we have learned about basic notation, rhythm and pitch.

COMPUTING

As we continue to work through our busy curriculum, computing will be used to supplement our learning. For example, we may use spreadsheets to help of record figures in maths or science. We might produce graphs to help us understand some data and so on.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL – SPANISH)

In Spanish language we continue to learn phrases so that by the end of the school year, you'll be ready to hold your own in Year 7 lessons. *Muy bien!*



During this term remember to...

- 1) **Read every day.** Vary what you read and collect new or interesting vocabulary.
Don't forget to look at poems, letters, diary entries, newspaper articles etc. Notice what they look like on the page, and try to recognise features we've talked about in school.
- 2) **Work hard whenever you're set a task.** You get out what you put in!
- 3) **Challenge yourself to work some maths questions out mentally.** Little and often is best.
- 4) **Check the calendar of events** regularly and be responsible for organising yourself.
- 5) Work hard but leave time to play. **Get plenty of rest & sleep too** – it's important that you're rested so you can concentrate on your learning.

Keep Up Classes



Keep Up Classes will begin on a regular basis, with Mr Day, Mrs Larder and Mrs Hartley leading lessons. The extra work should help you a great deal. **BUT - you have to be in school** to get the best from these sessions. **100% attendance** is something you should strive for!

**Homework- ALWAYS PLEASE CHECK
HOMEWORK!**

Seesaw

FOR CURRENT

It is expected that you put as much effort into your homework as you do your schoolwork. Look out for the guidance in the front of your homework books.

ALL HOMEWORK SHOULD BE QUALITY CHECKED AND SIGNED BY PARENTS NOW PLEASE.



Ongoing weekly homework involves reading (at least three times a week- more is better), learning spellings and other maths or literacy tasks. Please ensure homework is completed and handed in every Monday.

Finally

This is an **important** term. Be **confident**, be **proud** of your hard work hard and **enjoy** your learning.

If you do have any concerns come and talk to us. We we'll try to help.

IMPORTANT DATES:

W/c Monday 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 6th February - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 13th February - Parents' Evening

Wednesday 14th February - Parents' Evening

Friday 16th February - break up for half term

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - details to follow

Thursday 28th March - break up for Easter

Monday 13th May - SATs week begins for Year 6. Attendance is essential.