YEAR 6 NEWSLETTER

Driving Question: (Week 1-3): What lessons have society learned from significant individuals in black history? Reflect on lessons learned and the changing of history. Evaluate - What type of person do you want to be?

Driving Question (Week 4-8): The biomes of the Americas are diverse. In what ways does this impact its inhabitants? Outcome: TASC Wheel - Design a webpage to promote an area of North or South America including information related to biome, vegetation belts, human and physical features and the positive/negative impacts of living there for inhabitants?

Aspiration Condition for Learning: Belonging

Term 1

Geography

This term we are focusing many of our lessons on Geography which links to our driving question (see above). We will using maps and atlases to recap on our prior learning of counties, countries, continents and then move on to learn about and compare North and South America and Artic and Antarctica with a focus on global sustainability. The pupils will use the 8 points on a compass and 6 figure grid references to study time zones and locations.

At home: help your child by ensuring they understand the key vocabulary – human geography, physical geography, region, compass, biomes, continent, North/South America, climate zones, time zones, environmental.
Use Google Maps https://www.google.co.uk/maps or discover new locations on Google Earth.

Literacy

We are beginning this term looking at the model text 'The Cave of Curiosity' (below), where we will be learning how to create atmosphere in our poetry writing using abstract nouns. For our reading focus this term, we will study the book 'Unspoken' by Henry Cole. This book is a great example of how pictures can tell a story. We will be using this book as we begin teaching children about Black History (see below). Year 6 will be enjoying their class story 'There's a boy in the girls' bathroom' by Louis Sachar this term. This story raises many themes relevant to the children's age group.

Key vocabulary: curiosity, ambling, trundle, abstract noun, pronouns, conjunctions
At home: Read poetry together at home. Find and write poems that interest you and try to write your own version. Ensure you are checking all spellings you write in homework books using a dictionary. Don't forget to encourage your child to read every day and also try reading to them for 15 minutes a day too! Consider how you model good reading practices to your child by discussing with them who your favourite authors are.
Use the Story Museum website: https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/collections-story-resources/story-resources to explore other short stories or Oxford Owl: https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/

Grammar

The pupils will be focusing on tenses, word classes, pronouns and conjunctions. These are the pronouns they need to learn:
Personal: I, me, he, him, she, her, you, it
Relative: who, which, whose, that
Reflexive: himself, herself, yourself
Possessive: my, mine, his, hers, yours, theirs

Maths

This term, we will be learning about and securing our application of number and place value. **It is of vital importance that your child is secure in their knowledge of times tables up to 12X12.** We will be introducing the children to Active Maths sessions, which provide knowledge of number in a fun and active way. There will be a focus on multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 and place value up to at least 6 digits and beyond. Pupils will learn how to round and estimate numbers up to 10,000,000 (ten million) so they will focus on what each digit stands for in each column such as: 19,876,543

10 millions	millions	hundred thousands	ten thousands	thousands	hundreds	tens	ones
1	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

When rounding this number to the nearest ten thousand, they look at the digit 7, look next door at the thousand column – 6 and as this is 5 or over they round up meaning this number rounded to the nearest ten thousand is: 19,880,000.

At home: Please practise times tables. As well as using their Times Table Rockstars login. An additional useful website is www.topmarks.co.uk

Physical Education
To kick start this term, pupils will be learning new skills to improve their long distance running, stamina and pace. Pupils will also be learning skills to build their strength and stamina through fitness training. This will help pupils to run longer distances and to form healthy lifestyle habits. We will also be playing tag rugby this term. Pupils will be working on developing their coordination, stamina, use of tactics and teamwork skills.PE will be taught outside so please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing as the weather can be changeable.

Swimming
For pupils who have not yet completed their 25 metres in swimming, we hope that they will attend sessions on a Wednesday morning. When we have confirmation from Spiceball Leisure, we will provide further details.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. PE Kit is **white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers**. Please ensure that your child has a **black sweatshirt**.

For your child's safety, earrings must be removed before any PE lesson including swimming and long hair must be tied back.

Science
This term pupils will be learning about adaption and evolution. They will describe how the earth and living things have changed over time with a focus on the study of fossils. We will also discover how animals and plants adapt to suit their environment through a study of Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

Key Vocabulary: adaption, evolution, fossil, characteristic, extinct, environment, species, habitat, behaviour, genetic

Citizenship - Black History
We will be focusing on Black History in the first few weeks of Term 1, linked to our driving question (see above) and the book 'Unspoken' by Henry Cole. We will be talking about the slave trade in America and Britain between the 15th and 19th centuries and learning about the Underground Railroad – a system that helped fugitive slaves to freedom. We will discuss our rights and responsibilities within our community as well as exploring the British Values mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance. We will reflect on the type of person we want to be and the characteristics we already have.

At home: This is a fantastic opportunity to explore these issues with your child, as you see appropriate. You could research a famous individual linked to making changes in this area.

Useful websites:
On the Oak National Academy's website there are lots of resources to support with learning over the summer to get you child ready for their next year in education. You can find out more by following this link:
https://www.thenational.academy/summer-learning-support

REMINDERS AND DATES:
Uniform: Please make sure that all new uniform is clearly labelled in case it is misplaced. That way it can be returned to the correct class as soon as it is located.
Website: Remember to check the class pages regularly for newsletters, texts, updates and photos from work in class.
Homework & Spellings: This will be **sent home** every **Friday** and is **due** in on the **Thursday** of the following week.

Dates:

https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/Term-1-dates-2026.docx.pdf

*Please note – these dates might be different to what you previously had linked to their Year 5 classes. They will go to Rock UK in their new Year 6 classes.

Here is a copy of our model text for the beginning of this term:

Model Text

The Cave of Curiosity

In the cave of curiosity, I created
an angry ant ambling along,
a terrified tarantula tickling a tornado
and a curious computer calling cautiously to the King.

In the cave of curiosity, I created
the sound of silence closing its lips,
a hummingbird's wings flickering,
as the sea silently scrapes the pebbles and ten tired lorries trundle by.

In the cave of curiosity, I created
the touch of smooth stones from the summer beach,
the stickiness of honey on a fingertip
and the heat from a teaspoon as it stirs my morning tea.

In the cave of curiosity, I created
the coldness of frost as it freckles the windowpane,
the sharpness of a saw as it crunches through wood
and the sadness of a tear as it trickles down a cheek.

In the cave of curiosity, I captured
the moon's cold gleam imprisoned in a box,
the joy of a merry-go-round as it spins like a feral ferris wheel
and the force of a rainbow as it dazzles the sky with a smile that stuns.

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