

Class 6 Newsletter

SPRING 1 2022

Dear parents/carers and children,

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

We're really looking forward to this half-term, and hope the children are eager and ready to get stuck into some new learning.

Did one battle really save Britain?

This half-term we move back into some serious history learning with our topic on World War II.

We begin at the end of World War I, and look at how the sanctions against Germany paved the way for Adolf Hitler to rise to power. We will then look at many of the key events in Europe, such as Operation Dynamo and the Battle of Britain.

Much of our learning focuses on life in Britain for children during World War II, but we also look at life for people abroad, with a focus on life for Jewish people around Europe.

It goes without saying, that some of the themes covered are emotional and upsetting, and we will ensure this is treated sensitively in school. Please be vigilant if your child chooses to research anything themselves at home, so they are using age-appropriate websites and videos to answer any questions they have.

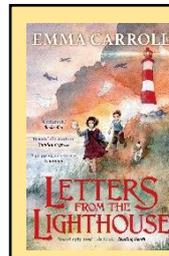
Key Knowledge:

- World War II started in September 1939, and ended in September 1945
- The war was fought by two sides: the Allies (which included Britain, France and Poland), and the Axis (which included Germany, Italy and Japan)
- Operation Dynamo involved the evacuation of soldiers from Dunkirk, France back to Britain
- The Battle of Britain was a key turning point in the war for Britain
- Lots of children were evacuated to safe places in the countryside, away from big cities
- Food had to be rationed in Britain to make sure there was enough to go around
- Around six million Jewish people were killed during the Holocaust
- Around 65 million people died during World War II

Within this topic, we will also be learning to some wartime music, designing propaganda posters and looking at some wartime food.

English

This half-term, our English work will be very cross-curricular and will focus around our class text, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. This book is a fantastic, evacuee-themed mystery with lots of twists and turns, and – as always with Emma Carroll books – it features a fantastic range of vocabulary and punctuation which is perfect for the children in Year 6.



Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

February, 1941

A bomb blast...
a chance encounter...
her mother's coat.

To contrast the experience of the British evacuees in *Letters from the Lighthouse*, we will read *Once*, by Morris Gleitzman which details the experience of Felix, a Jewish boy from Poland who is hidden in an orphanage by his parents as the Nazi's take control of Poland.

In our writing, we will work on diary entries based on our reading and then biographies of key figures from World War II.

Spelling

As last half-term, new spellings will be given out on Fridays for a test the following Friday. These should come home as a paper copy, as well as via the Parent App.

Reading

We will be reading our class texts during reading time, as well as a range of topic-specific non-fiction.

We will continue to focus on question answering techniques, including using evidence to back up answers, and understanding unfamiliar vocabulary.

Each Friday, starting on Friday 27th January, the children will bring home a reading comprehension activity, to be returned to school on the following Friday.

Mathematics

In mathematics, we cover a range of topics:

- Ratio
- Algebra
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Area, perimeter and volume
- Statistics
- Measurement

We will also be regularly returning to recap previously taught concepts.

Please remind children that at least 10 minutes of Times Tables Rock Stars is part of their home learning every week, and there is an expectation that they complete this. If you require a reminder of their login information, please don't hesitate to ask.

Physical Education

Monday afternoon

- Gymnastics

Thursday morning

- City in the Community

Please make sure the children come to school in correct PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays, so they are ready to take part in the lessons.

PE Kit

- plain white round necked T-shirt
- plain, dark shorts or jogging bottoms
- tracksuit top
- trainers

Please note that no jewellery of any kind may be worn in PE. If your child wears earrings, they should be able to remove them independently.

Only newly pierced ears may be covered with plasters.

Religious Education

Units of work:

- 6.3A *Why is the Exodus such a significant event in Jewish and Christian history?*

The aim of this unit is to:

- Give pupils a greater understanding of the significance of the Exodus and Passover
- Introduce pupils to the links between Christianity and Judaism

PSHE

Puzzle Piece 3: Dreams and Goals

- In this Puzzle the class talk about their own strengths and further stretching themselves by setting challenging and realistic goals.

Additional Lessons

To assist the children in Year 6 with the heavy load of the curriculum, and their May SATs assessments, we are offering some additional lessons after school on Mondays and Thursdays. These will **begin on Monday 23rd January**.

Monday: mathematics reasoning

Thursday: reading comprehension skills

These lessons will begin immediately after school and will end at 4:15pm. All children are welcome to attend these lessons.

If you wish for your child to attend, they are welcome to just come along, but we will need to know if their arrangements for going home afterwards are different to their usual arrangements, otherwise they will be dismissed as per their usual arrangements at the end of the lesson.

We will be dismissing children who take part from the main school entrance once the lesson has finished.

Imperial War Museum North

On **Thursday 23rd February**, we will be having a class trip to the Imperial War Museum North.

Further details of this trip will follow once final arrangements for the day are confirmed.

The children have already made a fantastic start to their learning this half-term. Thank you for all the support you offer them at home – it's always very much appreciated.

If you ever do have any concerns or worries about your child, please never hesitate to contact us as we will get back to you at a convenient time.

Thank you, as well, to all families who sent in Christmas cards, gifts and best wishes. We feel extremely lucky to work within such a thoughtful, caring and supportive community.

Best wishes,

Mr Selby and Miss Maloney