



Year 6 – Autumn Term 1

Welcome back. We hope you had a fabulous summer and that you are excited to join us in your child's final year at Gillibrand. We have lots of exciting events planned for Autumn term, and even beyond so please ensure you make a note of any dates. Also, remember to look at the latest news on <https://gillibrand.lancs.sch.uk/> and follow us on twitter at [@GPSELM](https://twitter.com/GPSELM) for weekly updates of what we get up to in Year 6!

Important Dates:

Monday 4th September - KS2 Growth Mindset Afternoon

Friday 15th September – KS2 French Day

Wednesday 20th September - Welcome to Year 6 Parents Meeting – 4.30pm and 5pm

Monday 12th September – Year 6 trip to Astley Hall Gardens (Art)

Monday 25th September – Play Leaders Training (am)

Monday 2nd – Tuesday 3rd October – Anderton Centre Residential

Wednesday 11th October – Harvest Festival at Trinity Church (Parents Invited)

Friday 13th October – Geography Fieldwork Trip (pm)

Wednesday 18th October – History Visitor (pm)

Thursday 19th October – Victorian's Assembly for Parents (2.30pm)

Friday 20th October - Geography Fieldwork Trip (pm)

English

Linked to our history topic of Victorian's and the British Empire, we will be studying a range of writing types linked to this topic. Over the half term we will be writing non-chronological reports on Victorian childhood; instructions on how to be a Victorian criminal; letter and diary entries as a Victorian child and descriptions of Victorian London. The book *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty will be our introduction to this writing topic.

During our English unit, our grammar focus will be: co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions; contractions, question tags and writing in formal/informal styles.

Art

Using the topic of Victorians and the British Empire as our inspiration, we will be studying the work of LS Lowry and the industrial revolution. The pupils will be creating their own urban landscape artwork using the art skills of drawing with 1 and 2 point perspectives for building; Lowry's matchstick style for people and the medium of acrylic paints to capture the mood in colour and texture. We look forward to sharing these finished pieces with you.

French

This half term we begin our French unit with and exciting and inspiring French day to revisit and recap French knowledge learnt from previous years. Our first Year 6 French unit will focus on 'Chez Moi'. Pupils will learn the nouns and articles for each of the different rooms in the homes and learn how to personalise this to their own homes. Pupils will end the unit by writing a passage in French showing what they have learnt.

Reading

Our whole class reading text this term is *Street Child* Berlie Doherty. During our study of this text, we will be discussing our thoughts, feelings and opinions of the characters and plot. In our comprehension focus we will be exploring a range of inference and explanation questions where the children will have to explain their answer in detail and use evidence from the text to back up their thoughts.

Maths

We will begin the half term developing our understanding of number and the number system before moving on to focusing on calculations. Our main focuses will include reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers up to 10,000,000. As well as identifying the value of each digit in numbers to 3 decimal places and multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 where the answers are up to 3 decimal places. We will also look at using negative numbers in context and calculating intervals across zero before rounding any whole number to a required degree of accuracy.

Science

In our exciting evolution study, linked to our geography work, pupils will learn how fossils provide information about living things that lived on Earth millions of years ago and how they have changed over time before using Mr Men characters to explore simple genetics. We will then learn about how plants and animals are adapted their environment and carry out the 'Beak Investigation' exploring how birds have adapted. Finally, we will use our reading, computing and writing skills to learn about Charles Darwin and communicate this is our chosen way.

PSHE

With the topic valuing difference, our year 6 pupils will build on their understanding of difference. This will delve into our own differences, looking at differences within our communities and how differences were once not tolerated. Pupils will study issues such as: respect, racism, discrimination, diversity and try to develop their own self-esteem and confidence.

Music

This half term the children will be developing their knowledge of the history of music and listening to a range of music from different periods of time. They will be using their art and computing skills to create information about the music they are introduced to. During our performance sessions, they will be learning to play Rule Britannia on the recorder.

History

In our exciting Victorian's and the British Empire topic we will be answering the question:

Was the British Empire under the Victorian's something 'great'?

With this topic, pupils will be learning about the British Empire and which countries this included. They will be using their previous learning to compare the British Empire with the Roman Empire. We will then go on to explore how the British Empire became so big and how people in Britain and the colonies were affected and changed by the empire. At the end of the topic, pupils will debate on whether the British Empire was 'great'.

Geography

In our exciting Victorian's and the British Empire topic we will be answering the question:

What was the land use like in the Victorian era and how is it different today?

Linked to history the pupils will be studying how Chorley changed during the Victorian Era and how the industrial revolution affected Chorley. We will be also studying maps and learning OS symbols and topographical features such as contour lines and elevation.

RE

Our Year 6 work will focus on the topic of journeys through different religions. We will begin by looking at Christianity and God reflecting upon the importance of child baptism, confirmation, and adult baptism. We will use our art skills to demonstrate a self-awareness of their own personal development by considering their own life journey and the changes they will make as they make as they progress through life.

Computing

This half-term we are going to focus upon using Microsoft Excel to create a spreadsheet for collecting their own Year 6 data. After becoming familiar with the format of a spreadsheet, the pupils will be taught simple formulas, collecting data and formatting graphs.

PE

This half-term P.E will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will focus on two different elements: Creative games and their Teddy Tennis session. In PE, we will be developing our ball skills in various ways e.g. dribbling, bouncing, kicking and linking these together with co-ordination, control and fluency to create their own game and rules. Teddy Tennis coaches P will be working with us this half term to develop our cricket skills.