

Year 6  
Spring Term  
2024



Miss Armson, Mr Archard,  
Miss Knight & Miss G

## English

The children will continue to develop their handwriting and spelling skills each day as well as expanding their use of grammar and punctuation. In the first half term, they will be reading the novel *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden – a captivating story about two London evacuees sent to a Welsh mining town. The children will create their own character descriptions and write from a character's perspective using the text as a stimulus. They will also be writing across the curriculum, including during humanities work. After half term, they will be focusing on the life and works of William Shakespeare, studying one play in greater detail (hopefully supported once again by the National Theatre). Although much of our English work will be inspired by the Bard, the children will also be focusing on non-fiction writing during the second half-term – using the theme of equality within the 20th Century as a stimulus.

As well as the core texts mentioned above, complementary ones will offer greater insight into the specific curriculum areas and these include: *Letters from the Lighthouse*, *When the Children Came Home*, *Women's War* and *What's So Special About Shakespeare?*

## Reading

To support their learning at school, the children are encouraged to read at home every day.

The daily reading session begins with 'Word of the Day' – a daily starter during which children encounter a new word. They learn and discuss its meaning, word class and spelling as well as using it in oral/written sentences. A different text is modelled and explored each week, and used for children to practise reading aloud to improve fluency as well as developing the different skills needed to read for meaning with confidence. Through directed tasks linked to the text, the children focus on applying skills related to the six domains (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising).

## Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation

Throughout the term, the children will spend time revising different spelling rules and conventions, and integrating these into their English work. In addition to this, they will be issued, on a weekly basis, with a set of words to learn at home. The spelling of these words will be tested on the following Tuesday. The words included in spelling tests come from the National Curriculum statutory list of words for Years 5&6, which is based on spelling patterns. These can be found in the children's homework books. We will also revise prior spellings to ensure that all are secure across a range of patterns. In addition to the spelling work, the children will spend time developing their punctuation and grammar skills. This will be done through a combination of separate grammar and punctuation lessons, and activities integrated into the main English sessions.

## Maths

The children will continue to consolidate their strategies for solving problems using their knowledge of written calculations. This will involve the use of word problems and clearly identifying the steps to take in order to solve questions. They will also look at measurement, ratio & proportion and algebra during the first half of the term. They will then look at area & perimeter, volume, geometry and statistics after the half-term break.

## Humanities

How life has changed in the 20th Century

Throughout this term, the focus will continue to be on significant events of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This half term, the children will spend time studying World War 2, plus look at various noteworthy figures responsible for change — including the study of key political movements. This study will involve looking at key politicians, humanitarians, scientists and sports people. In the second half of the term, the children will have the opportunity to select their own 20th Century figurehead, who they believe has been responsible for bringing about change that has had a significant impact, understanding the word legacy. They will create their own biographies and presentations.

## Science

### Electricity

The children will associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit; compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches and use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

### Light

The children will aim to recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines and use this knowledge to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. They will strive to explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes, or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes, and use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

## Art & Design and DT

This term, the artists focused upon will be William Ware and Henry Moore. Looking at William Ware's painting *Fired City* in the first half term, the children will use their knowledge of primary, secondary and tertiary colours - alongside shades and tints - to recreate the famous painting. In the second half term, the children will design, make and evaluate an Anderson shelter creation. They will use creativity and logic to create strong structures that are individual yet historically accurate.

## Religious Education

### Christianity

The children will learn how Christians follow Jesus and His teachings in their daily lives and what the challenges are associated with living a Christian life today.

### Buddhism

The children will learn which places have special meaning to Buddhists, what they may gain from visiting them and how Buddhists endeavour to live a good life.

## Computing

The children will start their work on their Oscar's films. They will use their movie-making skills to create a film for the Year 6 Oscars. They will view them at the Greenwich Picturehouse at the end of the year in their own celebration ceremony. Working independently within their groups, they will have to plan to utilise each member's skill to create something special that showcases their learning during their time at Sherington. The children will be given opportunities to use a green screen, and are encouraged to be as creative as possible. They will storyboard, write a script, film, edit and use a range of techniques to create their film.

## Music

The children will be continuing their study of music in the 20th century. In the first half term, they will be exploring the music from the genre of musical theatre - with a deep dive into the song Mambo from *West Side Story*. Their musical focus will be on understanding the history of music and there will be links to listening, rhythm, composition and performance. We will also be composing our own mini musical. In the second half term, they will be looking at compositional techniques linked to minimalism. The children will learn about different minimalist composers including Steve Reich.

## French

The children will continue to learn French on a weekly basis. The focus will be on consolidating their understanding of the basic grammar principles and applying what they learn creatively when speaking, reading and writing (developing confident pronunciation). French units covered will be WWII and weekend activities.

## PE

PE will take place on Mondays and Fridays. It is important to note that all children must wear shorts (¾ length) or jogging bottoms; tops must be plain blue or white T-shirts (covering the shoulders due to health and safety requirements). On the first day of term, the children should bring their PE kit in a drawstring bag.

## Additional Information:

### Homework

As part of the Year 6 spellings expectation, the children will receive weekly spelling homework each Wednesday with a test the following Tuesday. Please help your child to find a quiet time and place to practise their spellings.

We have asked the children to ensure that they are reading for a minimum of 30 minutes each day. We are happy for this to take the form of reading a book, newspaper, magazine or information from the internet. However, we would like them to read aloud with an adult at home at least once a week.

### Uniform

In line with expectations, the children should wear regulation blue, yellow or white tops and appropriate shorts, trousers or skirts. Please also remember that the only jewellery allowed is small stud earrings. Children with long hair need to come with their hair tied back.

### Water

It is Sherington's policy that water is drunk throughout the day to aid concentration and learning. Your child should bring a plastic bottle to school on a daily basis.

Please note that lessons start promptly at 8:55am. Children need to arrive in school at 8:50 to allow time to complete early morning work and organise resources for the first session.

For a printed version of this newsletter, please contact the school office.

