Year 6 Newsletter
Spring Term 2026

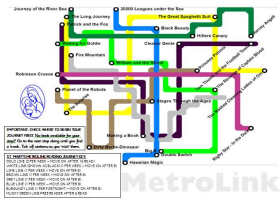
Welcome back to school for what will be your final seven months at St Mary's. We trust you all had a lovely Christmas holiday – *all of the Year 6 staff would like to say a sincere "THANK YOU" for some lovely Christmas cards and gifts – too generous! We very much appreciate it.*
We have a busy, varied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

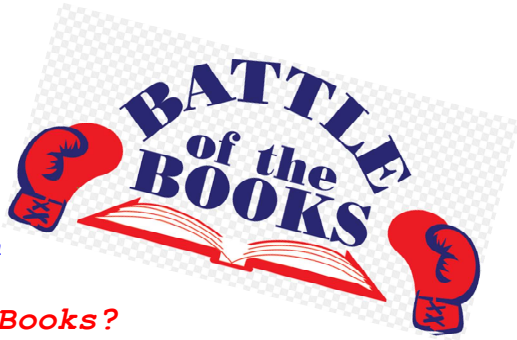
We study the Mayan Civilization in history this term, and so as part of this, we will produce a non-chronological report based on what we discover. During our work, we will be building paragraphs from a lead sentence, and linking both paragraphs and sentences using more complex connectives.

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.



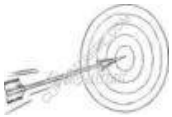
How are you doing with Battle of the Books? 12 key texts read gets you the reading badge, a green-screen review and a certificate.

Numeracy

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

We will look at:

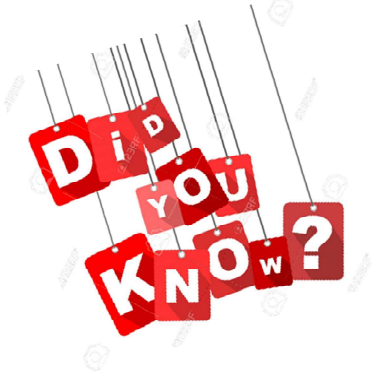
averages and graphs and charts
fractions, decimals and percentages
formulae and simple algebra
shape including translation, reflection & rotation.



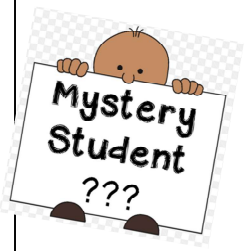
It is important that you try hard to remember what you have learnt and to build on it to help your future learning.

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

Need extra maths help? – try https://corbettmaths.com/primary/ where you find helpful tuition videos, worksheets and challenges.



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)

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.

Year 6: How do submarines see above the surface of the water?

Light Knowledge Mat (Physics)

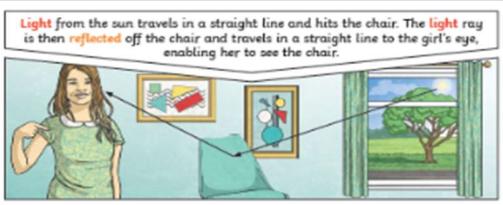
Subject specific vocabulary	
light wave	One of the characteristics of light is that it behaves like a wave. Light can be defined by its wavelength and frequency. The frequency is how fast the wave vibrate up and down.
light source	Light, or illumination, is a form of energy that travels in waves, like sound. An object that makes it's own light.
refraction	When light bends as it passes from one medium to another. E.g. light bends when it moves from air to water.
shadow	An area of darkness where light has been blocked.
reflection	When light bounces off a surface, changing the direction of a ray of light.
Incident ray	A ray of light that hits a surface.
reflected ray	A ray that has bounced back after hitting a surface.

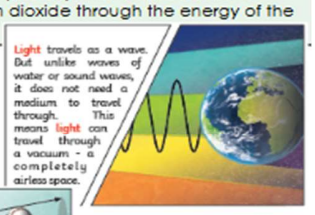
Sticky knowledge

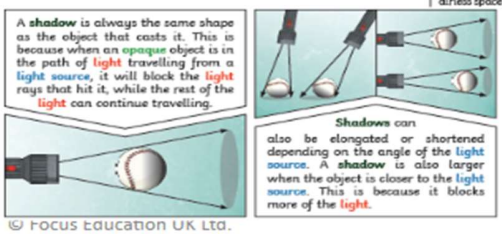
- ❑ **Know that light travels in straight lines.**
- ❑ **Understand that because light travels in straight lines then objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.**
- ❑ **Know that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.**
- ❑ **Know that light travels in straight lines and therefore shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.**

Interesting facts

- Light waves travel from sources of light in straight lines. These lines are often called rays or beams of light.
- Space does not have any light. We can see things in space due to light bouncing off of the objects in space.
- Light doesn't travel as fast when it has to pass through mediums that are different, such as air, water or glass.
- Light that we see from the sun actually left the sun ten minutes before we see it.
- Light is used by plants to convert the light into energy as their 'food'. The process is called 'photosynthesis' and converts carbon dioxide through the energy of the light.







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

Year 6: What happens when I flick a switch?

Electricity Knowledge Mat (Physics)

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
conductor	A material that does allow electric current to flow through it.
insulator	A material that does not allow electric charge to flow through it.
electricity	Electricity is a type of energy that build up in one place (static), or flow from one place to another (current electricity).
series circuits	A series circuit has only one route for the current to take. If more bulbs or buzzers are added, the power has to be shared so they will be dimmer/quieter. If part of a series circuit breaks, the circuit is broken and the flow of the current stops.
cell/ battery	An electrical cell is a device that is used to generate electricity, or one that is used to make chemical reactions possible by applying electricity.
voltage	The force that makes the electric current move through wires. The greater the current the more the current will flow.
circuit	A path that an electrical current can flow round.
current	The flow of electricity. Measured in amps.
resistance	The difficulty the electric current has when flowing around a circuit.

Electrical symbols

Component	Symbol	Purpose
Cell (Battery)		Provides electrical energy
Power supply		Alternative to using cells
Wire		Allows current to travel
Bulb/light		Converts electrical energy into heat and light
Motor		Converts electrical energy into movement energy
Buzzer		Converts electrical energy into sound energy
Switch		Allows circuit to be opened or closed

Sticky Knowledge:

- **Know how the number and voltage of cells in a circuit links to the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer.**
- **Compare and give reasons why components work and do not work in a circuit.**
- **Use recognised symbols when representing and drawing a simple circuit in a diagram.**
- **Construct simple series circuits.**
- **Be able to answer questions about what happens when they try different components, for example, switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors.**

Interesting & important facts

- ❑ Electricity travels at the speed of light. That's more than 186,000 miles per second!
- ❑ Electricity comes from the power station, the wind, the sun, water and even an animal's faeces!
- ❑ Fuses are safety devices. A fuse is a strip of wire that melts and breaks an electric circuit if it goes over a safe level.
- ❑ Coal is the biggest source of energy for producing electricity. Coal is burned in furnaces that boils water and creates steam.
- ❑ A popular way of generating electricity is through hydropower. This is a process where electricity is made by water which spins turbines attached to generators.
- ❑ A bolt of lightning can measure up to 3,000,000 volts, and it lasts less than one second!
- ❑ A generator is a machine that converts energy into electricity.

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?

Year 6 : The Mayan Civilization

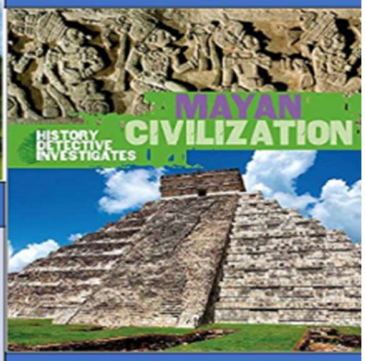
What deadly games did the Mayans play?

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
civilization	A human society, usually made up of different cities, with cultural and technological development.
society	A community or group of people having common traditions, institutions, and interests.
glyphs	Symbols used in the Maya writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
codices	Books created by the Maya. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.
Chichen Itza	The Mayas most well-known city and pyramid built on the Yucatan Peninsula.
cacoa	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
khau	The main king or lord of a Maya city-state.
batab	A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town.
Itzamna	The main god of the Maya. The creator of earth, and ruler of day and night.
kin	Word representing a day in the Maya calendar.
Kukulcan	The serpent god of the Maya. One of the primary gods and important to the Itza people of Chichen Itza.
uinal	Word for a month in the Maya calendar. It was 20 days long.

Sticky Knowledge

- Maya society was formed of a number of city-states, each with their own ruler, a king and royal family at the top, closely linked to gods. Scribes, priests and nobles formed the ruling class.
- The Maya society declined as people left the city-states and ended with the Spanish invasion following Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas in 1492 AD.
- Trade was as important as agriculture in Maya civilization. Merchants traded cacao beans for items such as salt, foodstuffs, clothing and tools.
- The Maya believed in many gods. Each represented and aspect of human life. Itzamna and Kukulcan are two of the most important gods worshipped.
- The Maya believed in an afterlife and religion was extremely bloodthirsty, demanding human sacrifices and blood-letting rituals.
- The Maya civilization were expert mathematicians and astronomers, recognised for their sophisticated calendar systems and hieroglyphic writing systems.

Interesting Book



Important Places

Uxmal - one of the best-preserved Mayan sites in

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 Wednesday this term.** We will be working on gymnastics and athletics, dance and orienteering.

Religious Education (R.E)

We look at 'What kind of King is Jesus to Christians?' and 'What difference does the Resurrection make to Christians?. Some interesting ideas and theology to be discussed.

For Christians, what kind of King is Jesus?

Key Stage 2 Knowledge Organiser

Wonderful words

Parable: a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

Kingdom: an area controlled by a King or Queen

Forgiving: stopping blaming or punishing someone for that they have done

Salvation: being saved or rescued so that humans are no longer separated from God

Unforgiving: to continue to blame someone for what they have done

Banquet: a very large meal usually for a celebration

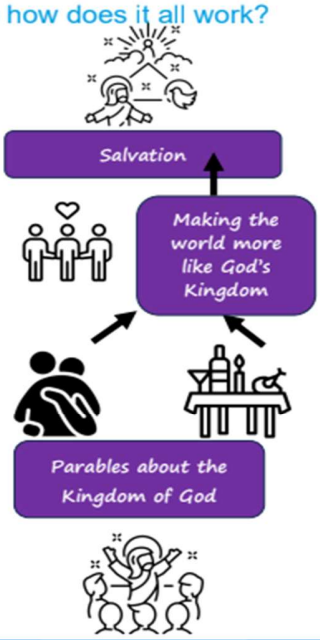
Inheritance: when something is passed on to someone else

Social: being part of society

Unjust: not behaving in a way that is morally right or fair

Biblical: relating to, or in the Bible

So how does it all work?



Important information

Throughout his life Jesus told **parables** to help the people understand what the **Kingdom** of God was like and to invite people to join his kingdom.

These **Biblical** stories or parables, such as the stories of The Great **Banquet** and the **Unforgiving** Son tell Christians they should accept God's invitation to become part of his kingdom and not to be distracted by things in the world.

In the parable of the Unforgiving Son a young man was given his **inheritance** by his father but when a great famine came he lost all of his money and he went back to his father who forgave him and welcomed him. In this, Jesus taught that **forgiving** people is at the heart of what it is to be part of God's kingdom.

Christians follow what Jesus told them to do and many of them will challenge **unjust social** structures in their local area and around the world by supporting charities that help those less fortunate than themselves.

By acting as Jesus told them to, Christians believe that they will have **salvation** and will be able to be near to God as the events of the Fall meant that people fell away from God.

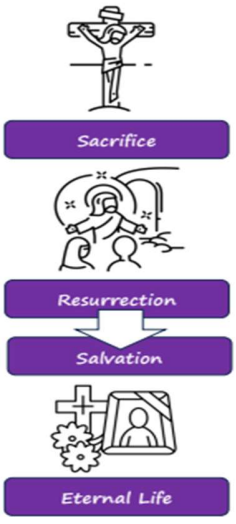
What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?

Key Stage 2 Knowledge Organiser

Wonderful words

Salvation: being saved or rescued so that humans are no longer separated from God
Resurrection: Jesus' return to life after dying
Interpret: to explain or understand the meaning of something
Sacrifice: giving something up for the sake of someone or something else
Biblical: relating to something in the Bible
Theological: the study of God and religious belief or a set of beliefs
Gospel: the good news that Jesus brought, a book in the New Testament
Eternal Life: the belief that through Jesus' death Christians can go to Heaven to be with God for eternity
Incarnation: God became human in the form of Jesus, God in the flesh
Funeral: a ceremony held after someone has died

So how does it all work?



Important information

Easter is a very special time for Christians as they remember Jesus being crucified on Good Friday and his **resurrection** on Easter Sunday.

Christians will read the **Biblical** accounts of Easter in the **gospels** which will tell them about the events and they will use **theological** ways of study to find out what these events means. Through this they are able to **interpret** what the story means for them as Christians today.

Christians believe that God became human so that He could bring **salvation** to everyone. Christians refer to the birth of Jesus as the **incarnation** as this is when God became flesh. They believe that the **sacrifice** of Jesus on the cross enables them to have **eternal life** with God in heaven after they have died. They believe that Jesus dying and being resurrected healed the rift between God and man caused by The Fall.

In churches different Christians will remember the events of Easter in many ways. However, they will all focus on how God has saved people and given them eternal life.

When a person has died, Christians will have a service known as a **funeral** for the dead person. The funeral service expresses the belief that the dead person has eternal life with God because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Design Technology (D.T)

A new topic using electricity to power a motor- coming soon.

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.

Art and design - Drawing: Expressing ideas through art

depth	The feeling in a picture that some things are closer and others are farther away.
graffiti	Spray-painted words and images that appear on property without permission.
horizon	The horizontal line that separates the sky from the ground creating perspective.
mural	A painting made directly on a wall or other permanent structure.
proportion	How big one element of an artwork appears compared to the whole thing.
realism	A way of making art that looks as close to real life as possible.
street art	Artwork that is created in a public space, typically without official permission.
vanishing point	A spot on the horizon where things seem to disappear.

Artists:

- Sian Storey.
- Edgar Müller.
- Diego Rivera.

one point perspective
A drawing technique to give the illusion of depth by making objects look smaller.

scale
The size of an object or figure in relation to another object, figure or the overall composition.

MUSIC

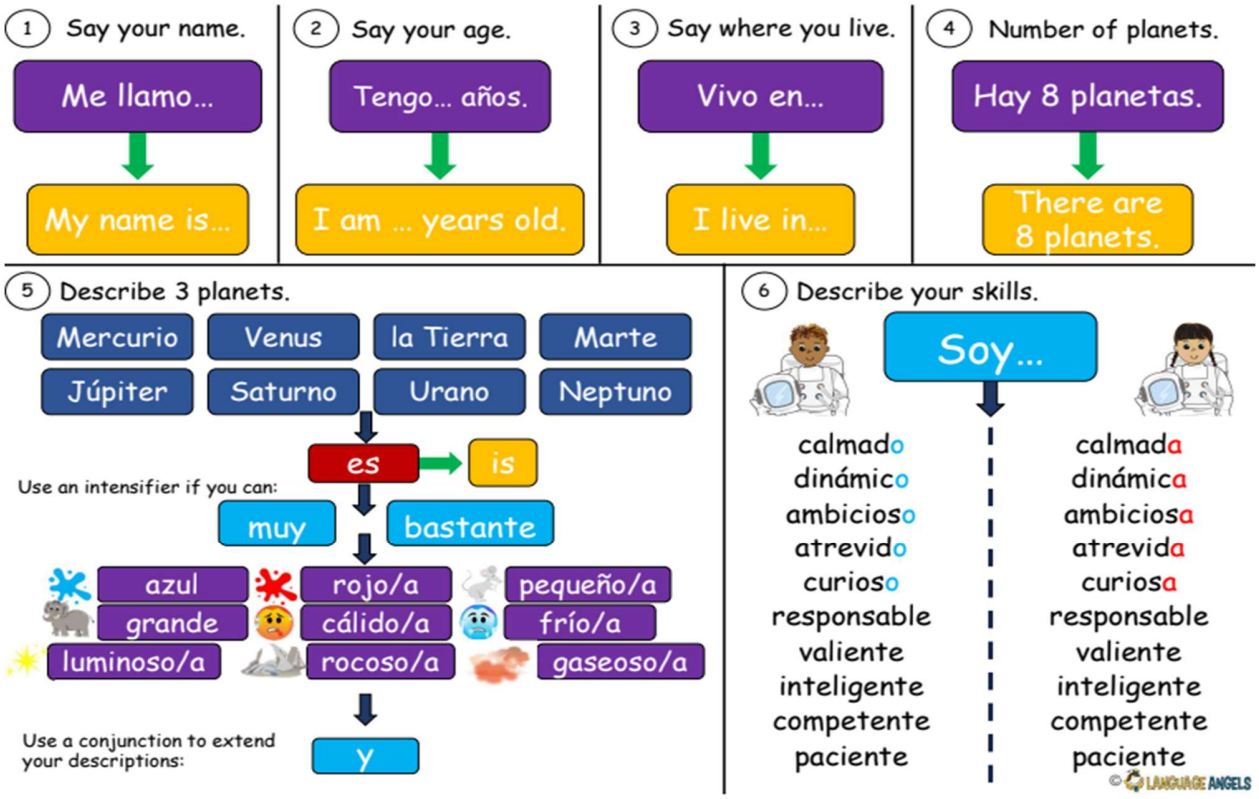
We continue to sing and explore how tuned and non-tuned instruments can accompany musical patterns and styles.

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!*
This next term we will look at the planets.



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 Burke 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 SCHOOL SPIDER AND YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK BOOK FOR CURRENT HOMEWORK!

It is expected that you put as much effort into your homework as you do your schoolwork.
ALL HOMEWORK SHOULD PLEASE BE QUALITY CHECKED AND SIGNED BY PARENTS.

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. Remember that 30mins of IXL learning is also usually expected and TT Rock Stars if your child has any red or amber areas on their heatmap.

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 will try to help.

IMPORTANT DATES:

W/c Monday 9th February – Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 11th February – Parents' Evening

Friday 13th February – break up for half term

Monday 11th May – SATs week begins for Year 6. Attendance is essential.