



Thurston CE  
Primary Academy

# Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1

We hope you had a great Christmas and are ready for 2024!

## Christian Value

Courage

### Key Information

**Staffing:** Miss Larsen (Leopards), Mr Wognum (Tigers)

**Teaching assistants:** Mrs Wallace

**P.E:** Leopards—Thursday Tigers—Friday

**Spellings:** Handed out on a Friday; tested on the following Friday.

**Home Learning:** Weekly home learning task sent out on a **Friday** (see weekly newsletter). To be completed by the following **Friday**.

**Class Emails:**

[leopards@thurstonprimary.net](mailto:leopards@thurstonprimary.net) / [tigers@thurstonprimary.net](mailto:tigers@thurstonprimary.net)

Subject	Coverage	Knowledge & Skills
English	<p><b>3rd Person Narrative: To write a Just So Story in the style of Rudyard Kipling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe settings, characters and atmosphere.</li> <li>Write effectively for a range of purposes (direct address, characterisation, literary language).</li> <li>Integrate dialogue to convey character and advance action.</li> <li>Exercise an assured and conscious control over levels of formality.</li> <li>Distinguish between the language of speech and writing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Explanatory Texts:</b> To write an explanation of the journey of a river from its source to its mouth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs.</li> <li>Use parenthesis and relative clauses.</li> <li>Use simple devices to structure the writing (subheadings, bullet points).</li> <li>Use colons.</li> </ul>	
Maths	<p><b>Decimals, fractions and percentages:</b> Place value; multiplying and dividing decimals; decimal, percentage and fraction equivalents; and percentages of an amount.</p> <p><b>Area, perimeter and volume:</b> Calculating the area of any triangle; calculating the area of a parallelogram and calculating the volume of cuboids.</p>	
Science	<p><b>Spring 1 - Evolution and Inheritance</b></p> <p><b>Knowledge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.</li> <li>Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.</li> <li>Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Skill Focus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain degrees of trust in results.</li> <li>Identify and evaluate scientific evidence (your own and others') that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.</li> </ul>	
Humanities	<p><b>Spring 1 Geography:</b></p> <p><b>What is a river?</b></p>	<p>How does the course of the River Axe change from source to mouth?</p> <p>How does the course of my local river change from source to mouth?</p> <p>Why are river estuaries such important places for wildlife?</p> <p>Why are rivers such an important part of the water cycle?</p> <p>How has the Isle of Dogs (a river meander) changed since the reign of Henry VIII?</p> <p>Why is river flooding such a problem in Bangladesh?</p>

You will never have this day again so, with the guidance of God, make it count!

Computing	Spring 1 Data Handling—Big Data 1	Understanding and identifying barcodes, QR codes and RFID. Identifying devices and applications that can scan or read barcodes, QR codes and RFID. Understanding how barcodes, QR codes and RFID work. Gathering and analysing data in real time. Creating formulas and sorting data within spreadsheets. Learning how 'big data' can be used to solve a problem or improve efficiency.
RE	Spring 1 - Hinduism	How do questions about Brahman and Atman influence the way a Hindu lives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with a dilemma for some Hindu monks.</li> <li>Enquire into Hindu ideas about God, the world and living beings.</li> <li>Explore ideas about Brahman / Atman in Hindu lives and community practice.</li> <li>Evaluate learning about Hindu belief and practice in relation to Brahman / Atman.</li> </ul>
Art	Spring 1 Drawing: Make my voice heard	Pupils will create expressively in their own personal style and in response to their choice of stimulus. Key Skills: Collect a good range of imagery, adding annotated notes and sketches. Make relevant comparisons between different styles of art. Use tools effectively to explore a range of effects. Discuss ideas to create light and dark through drawing techniques. Explain the term chiaroscuro and apply it to create light and form through a tonal drawing. Understand the impact of using techniques for effect. Identify a cause and decide what message they want to convey. Understand artist's choices to convey a message.
PE	Spring 1 Gymnastics	Can perform complex shapes when performing sequences and skills with flexibility. Perform more complex jumps and travelling on and off apparatus, tuck, pike and leaps scissor kick and cat leap Side star roll, T-roll (with pointed toes), backwards roll. Perform various balances counter balance and counter tension. Perform a 'squat on and squat off 'apparatus with a run up (with or without a spring board). Compete in teams to win points with sequences and a vault competition. Perform a hurdle step on the floor/springboard and onto apparatus. Inverted skills shoulder stand, cartwheel, teddy bear roll, head stand, handstand.
MFL-French	Spring 1 Rigolo 2, Unit 9: Ma journee	<b>Reading:</b> Read for information and instructions, reading aloud. <b>Listening:</b> Listen and react to others and listen for clues in sentences. <b>Speaking:</b> Ask and talk about daily routine , talk about times of daily routine, ask and talk about breakfast and talk about details of a typical day.
Music	Spring 1 Dynamics, pitch and texture: Coast- Fingal's Cave by Mendelssohn	Engage in discussion about the sounds of an orchestral piece. Have a selection of varied vocabulary in response to what they hear. Change dynamics and pitch, differentiating between the two. Take the role of conductor or follow a conductor. Change texture within their group improvisation and talk about its effect. Create a graphic score to represent sounds. Follow the conductor to show changes in pitch, dynamics and texture.
PSHE	Spring 1 Citizenship: The law, rights and responsibilities.	Understand what happens when someone breaks the law. Understand what prejudice and discrimination are and why and how they should be challenged. Understand how reducing the use of materials and energy helps the environment, and what individuals can do to support this. Understand how people contribute to society and how this is recognised. Understand that education is a human right and why education is important. Understand the roles and responsibilities of people in government

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## Ways To Help At Home

### Reading and Spelling

- Please listen to your child read regularly—daily is best.
- Continue to read stories aloud to your child.
- Spellings will be sent home on a Friday. Encourage your child to practise these at home ready for the test on the following Friday.
- English homework will be set every other week on Planpanion.

### Knowledge Organisers

We will continue to use knowledge organisers for many of our curriculum areas this year. Copies of these may be sent home at different points this term. When they do come home please spend some time looking at the information together with your child and helping them remember key facts.

### Maths

- Practise times tables on Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) a few times a week.
- The teachers will set activities on Mathletics (maths) every other Friday. These will be linked to the topics that the children have been learning about at school. Please encourage your child to complete these every week.

### Wider Curriculum (KS2)

#### Optional/Extra Homework Ideas

- This term, we will be learning about rivers in Geography.
- Make a fact-file about your favourite river.
- Create some river-inspired art using different media.
- Compose a piece of music inspired by a river.
- Write a diary entry from the point of view of a river.
- Take a trip to Pakenham or Sapiston streams.

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