

COUNTDOWN TO EXTINCTION

We've had a fantastic start to the year and the children are settled and already enjoying our exciting topic of Boom, Bang It's the Blitz. This term we will be completing our work on the World War 2 and, in addition to this, we will be shifting our focus on to our science topic, Evolution and Inheritance.

Science

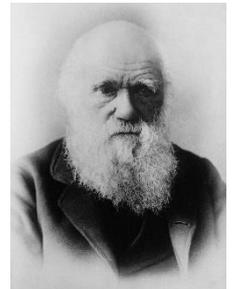


Exciting times are coming in our science topic this term! The children will be taking part in a fascinating practical workshop during which they will learn all about Charles Darwin and his observations of the finches on the Galapagos Islands. We will also be delving even further into the past where we will look at what we can learn from fossils. A key focus will be on the pioneering palaeontologist, Mary Anning, whose studies of the fossils she found led to the discovery of some fascinating species of dinosaur. We will learn a little about how these fossils came to be and how different dinosaurs evolved ...as well as what scientists believe led to their extinction.

Literacy



In our literacy lessons, the children will be planning and writing persuasive letters based on our class reader, Goodnight Mister Tom. This will be followed by some persuasive writing on endangered animals and biographical work on the scientists, Charles Darwin and Mary Anning.



Reading

In whole class reading sessions, we will be investigating features of biographies as well as a range of persuasive texts. We will continue to develop the children's vocabulary by examining extracts from classic fiction such as: The Time Machine, Journey to the Centre of the Earth and The Lost World.

Please could we ask you to continue to read with your child and encourage them to read at home at least five times a week. When you have the opportunity, have a chat about the book they are reading, focusing on the vocabulary choices and literary techniques which have been used and the effect they are trying to have on the reader. Please write any comments in your child's reading record, which are still checked regularly.

Spellings

Spellings will continue to be handed out on a **Monday** and tested each **Friday**. Please help your child to learn these spellings. The children will also be asked to learn the meanings of the words they are given and put a selection of them into sentences. You will also be provided with a list of statutory words that we will be addressing throughout the year; any additional work you can do with these will be extremely beneficial.

Maths

Please continue to ensure your children are practising their multiplication tables. These are fundamental to their mathematics learning and are essential to the majority of areas in mathematics. They should be able to recall them immediately, in any order, as this will ensure they can make quicker progress during their maths lessons. Children should also know the related division facts.

PE

Eagle and Kite Class will continue to swim each Thursday morning. This term, all Year 5/6 classes will be developing their netball skills in their outdoor PE slot. Kestrel class will also be developing their gymnastic skills. Please ensure that your child has the following PE kit in school at all times as PE days can change frequently at this time of year due to the weather and events in the school hall.

- Black shorts and black or dark tracksuit bottoms for colder weather.
- A green PE t-shirt (available from the school office)
- Trainers
- A sweatshirt, fleece or hoodie

RE- We will be discussing the question, Is 'God made man' a good way to understand the Christmas story?

PSCHE- **Say No to Bullying**, valuing difference, equality, identity, stereotypes and discrimination.

Geography- To link with the expeditions of Darwin and the location of the world's endangered animals, we will be developing the children's map and atlas skills and their knowledge of: latitude, longitude, the equator, hemispheres, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, and the Arctic and Antarctic circle.

DT- We will be creating moulds for, and then making, fossils.

French- Classroom routines, clothing, family members, verb forms, where I live.

Computing – We are app planners.

Special Events- Science workshop, Parliament Week, Friendship Friday

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hill, Mr Guy, Mr Macfarlane and Mr Woods