

PE

We will be developing our coordination, agility and fitness through cricket and athletics this term. In cricket we will focus on our ability to bowl accurately, and in athletics we will develop our ability to jump, run and throw.

Computing

We will begin to draw together all our knowledge of design, word-processing, publishing and photography to produce a leavers book, recalling our time at Bedwell. We will include information about favourite activities, experiences and friends, as well as lots of pictures.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...

Science

Our next science unit will see us exploring light. We will explore how we see things, how light travels and the reasons why we can't see around corners. We will investigate shadows in more detail, planning and carrying out our own experiments to discover what factors affect the size of a shadow. Finally we will learn about refraction, and the way that this makes rainbows, lenses and prisms possible.

The Arts

Our preparations for our end-of-year production of *Aladdin* will be stepping up a gear! We will continue to practice singing songs from the musical, encouraging those who feel confident to try out some of the solo parts. In DT, meanwhile, we will be using our sewing and textile skills to create scarves for the people of Agrabah to wear.

Maths

Year 6 will be working hard to revisit and revise the key maths knowledge we have worked on over the last year, so that we are as prepared as possible for our SATs in May. We will continue to practice our arithmetic skills every day (particularly those tricky fraction, percentage and division calculations), and will be working to apply what we know to new problem solving situations, often involving money and measures. We will be brushing-up on our understanding of time, angles and co-ordinates, and will have opportunities to suggest key areas that we would like to revise in our last few lessons before our tests. Then, once all that is out of the way, we have some fun work on nets and pie charts to look forward to.

Humanities

History

We will be investigating Viking and Anglo-Saxon Britain this term. After identifying who the Vikings were and where they came from, we will learn more about their raids on Britain and the battles which resulted in them dominating much of modern England. We will meet King Alfred the Great, find out why he is the only English king called 'the Great' and discover how he made peace with the Viking invaders.

Throughout the term we will also be discovering what it was like to live in Viking times. We will find out what they wore and ate, what their homes were like and how they were governed. We will also learn about their gods and read a range of Norse myths and legends.

English

We will continue to use our *Circus* theme to inspire our writing across a variety of genres and forms. This term, we will focus on discussion and persuasion, revising the key features of these non-fiction texts and developing our use of conjunctions and adverbials to link ideas and show how they agree (or disagree) with each other. We will investigate different ways to open and close our writing in order to engage the reader and convince them of our point of view - and we'll also be improving the way we edit and redraft our writing, aiming to produce top-quality final pieces that we're all proud of. Finally, we will continue to work on our grammar knowledge, revising all of the rules and terminology we have covered so Year 6 are ready for their SATs in May.

THE BIG TOP

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PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

While we're using Publisher to create leavers' books, think about how else you could use IT to capture memories - video could be a great way to do this, and there's a nice BBC Bitesize guide at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/zyb72hv

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- There are lessons online to support our next topic at: classroom.thenational.academy/units/light-6f3a
- Investigate different sources of light, like fireflies and glow worms, or find out more about how the eye works.
- Make shadow puppets and think about the way that these are created.

The Arts

It would be great to see the whole of Year 6 trying out for main parts when we get to auditions for *Aladdin* in the summer, and practicing singing some of the songs would be a great way to support your child in building their confidence for this - you can find the whole soundtrack (or better still the stage show recording) on YouTube.

Maths

Quick recall of tables facts continues to be vital for so much of the maths we do, so keep practicing at home as much as possible. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Encourage your child to read and talk to them about what's happened so far and what might happen next.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- Have a go at learning to juggle (or another circus skill) - and collect lots of great language to describe your movements. It's not thrown, it's *flung*, *lobbed* or *hurled*. It's not difficult, it's *demanding*, *arduous* or *problematic*!

Humanities

- Beware of Google-ing Vikings at home - you'll get lots of links to the TV series, which definitely isn't Year 5/6 appropriate! Instead, have a look at the BBC Bitesize resources at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6 This includes really quick video clips that explain who the Vikings were and where they came from, and will give us a good head-start in lessons.
- Oak Academy also have a series of home learning lessons on Vikings and life in Viking Britain. These are all about 15 minutes long and again make the timeline of the Viking and Anglo Saxon period really clear. They're free to access and you can find them at: classroom.thenational.academy/units/vikings-and-anglo-saxons-vc874

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