



Wood End Primary School Curriculum Newsletter

Year 6 Summer Term 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The last few weeks have been busy at school, we have finished reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse', we had the Science week and Red Nose Day to mention a few. In the next half term, we will allocate more time towards preparing the children for their SATs exams.

Please ensure daily reading at home and that reading is recorded. Maths homework is set every Wednesday and due on Wednesday the following week.

Themed days

We will be celebrating and discussing the following:

- Walk to school week
- St. George's Day
- World Maths Day
- Autism Awareness Day

Trips

Ace Adventures

(20 - 22/5/26)

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." – [Mahatma Gandhi](#)

Below is a breakdown of the skills and knowledge to be covered in each subject through this topic.

English:

We will be engaging in creative writing, focussing on using different register and dialogue to show how the relationships between the characters alter as circumstances change around them.

Later in the half term, we will be writing persuasive letters. Children will have to consider the needs and perspectives of the target audience, and they will learn to tailor their arguments to appeal to different readers.

Mathematics:

This term, children will be focusing on:

- Measuring angles and drawing shapes accurately using a ruler and a protractor
- Calculate unknown angles in shapes and on lines using angle facts
- Explore properties of polygons and circles
- Identify 3D shapes from 2D representations
- Solve problems about number, including fractions and ratio
- Use representations to help make sense of problems
- Use the four operations flexibly
- Reason about problems with a context and without a context
- Apply understanding of measurement and geometry to solve problems

Computing:

This half term pupils will explore 3D Modelling design using the CAD software, 2Design and Make, on Purple Mash. It guides children to create, refine and evaluate models with creativity and purpose.

Science

In the next unit, children will explore the impacts of diet, drugs and lifestyle on overall body health. They will make links to learning in the previous circulatory system block as much as possible to identify how diet can have positive or negative effects on the heart.

Pupils will learn that fats can be classified as saturated, unsaturated and trans fats. They will find out that the body needs vitamins (such as, A, C and D) and minerals (such as, iron and calcium). They will also encounter energy measured in calories and will research the impact of too many or too little calories on the body and how this affects general and heart health.

Geography:

This term, pupils will be learning about the British Geographical issues: air pollution, climate change, waste and litter. We will discuss:

- Physical and human processes- how landscapes change because of human actions.
- Environmental interactions and sustainable development.
- How human action can affect the environment and what impact that can have.

Physical Education:

In PE, we are going to continue with REAL PE. Skills that we will practise and develop are static balance and dynamic balance.

Useful websites to support learning in this topic

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/>

Reading:

In Summer 1, we will be reading "Race to the Frozen North" by Catherine Johnson; it tells the incredible true story of the life of Matthew Henson, the first African-American man to travel to the North Pole.

We will develop reading with expression, inference and the skills to answer a variety of comprehension questions.

Educational websites to help your child remember previous learning.

Help your child to commit important knowledge to long term memory by using the websites below.

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/>

<https://play.trockstars.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

Art/DT/ Music

In Art, children will explore the impressionists through the work of Monet, exploring how they broke from the norm by painting outside using rapid brushwork and painting landscapes.

In DT, children will learn about fast fashion and sustainability; they will also upcycle old t-shirts.

During Music, children will continue using the Ealing Music Scheme- Charanga.

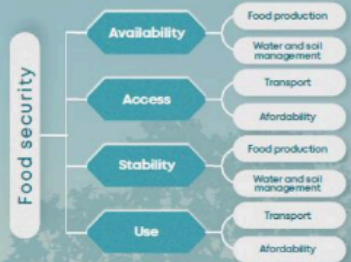


Africa



Mansa Musa

Ruler of the Ancient Kingdom of Mali, thought to be the richest man the world has ever known.



KEY VOCABULARY

Homo Sapiens

Our species of modern human. From the Latin meaning, wise man. The term was introduced by the scientist Carl Linnaeus.

Commodity

A raw material or product of farming that can be bought and sold, e.g. salt or gold. Commodities are traded around the world.

Agriculture

The practice of farming, both crops and animals.

Desert

From the Latin word meaning, 'an abandoned place', deserts are regions of land that receive very little precipitation (e.g. rain). It is hard for plants, animals and people to live in desert areas.

Desertification

A process where fertile land becomes desert. This can be as a result of drought, deforestation or over farming. Farmers cannot grow crops or graze animals on desert land.

Biodiversity

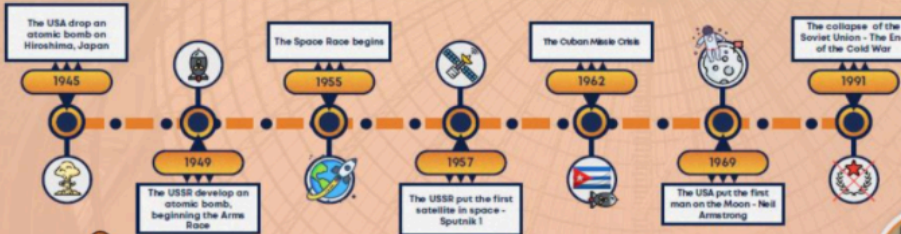
The variety of plants and animals within a habitat.

Food Insecurity

A situation where people within a country, or region, are unable to access, or afford, enough nutritious food.

Colonialism

The practice of taking control of another country, then holding political and economic power over that country.



THE SUPER POWERS



USA
The United States of America



USSR
The Soviet Union, officially known as the United Socialist Soviet Union (USSR)



prevented nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis
Vasili Arkhipov



first man in space
Yuri Gagarin



first woman in space
Valentina Tereshkova



famous writer
George Orwell



first man on the moon
Neil Armstrong



a great mathematician who worked for NASA
Katherine Johnson

KEY VOCABULARY

Communism

A system where the government own and control almost everything. All people are supposed to be treated equally and cannot own land, factories or make their own money.

Capitalism

A system where businesses are privately owned and run by the people, rather than the government. Also known as a 'free-market'.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

The theory that each superpower had enough nuclear weapons to destroy the other but that if they were to attack, the other side would retaliate. This would result in both sides destroying one another. The theory of MAD deterred both sides from using their nuclear weapons.

Cosmonaut

The Russian word for a person who is trained to go to space. The Americans used the term 'astronaut'

Containment

The USA's policy to try and stop the spread of communism.

Proxy war

Wars fought between other countries where each superpower supported opposing sides

PROXY WARS

WAR	PERIOD	USA took sides with	USSR took sides with
KOREAN WAR	1950 - 1953	South Korea	North Korea
VIETNAM WAR	1955 - 1975	South Vietnam	North Vietnam



Florence	The capital of Italy's Tuscan region. Michelangelo's home city
Medici	An important Italian family , who were bankers and lived in Florence during the renaissance
Guild	An organisation made up of a group of craftsmen
Duomo	Italian word for cathedral
Basilica	A name given by the Pope to some churches
Pope	The head of the Roman Catholic church
Vatican City	Headquarters of the Roman Catholic church and home to the Pope. Surrounded by the city of Rome (capital of Italy)
Linear perspective	The way /lines and shapes are used to show three-dimensional space in a two-dimensional work of art
Carve	The act of using tools to shape something from a material by scraping away
Cast	A way of making a sculpture by pouring liquid , for example liquid metal, into a mould
In the round	Where sculptures are carved or built all around , from front to back
In relief	Where sculptures stick out from a flat surface , rather than being made all the way around
Flat relief	Where relief sculpture is particularly flat – not very much raised from the surface
Contrapposto	An Italian word used to describe a standing human figure where the weight is placed on one leg causing the head, shoulders and body to twist



Michelangelo

David (1504)



The Gates of Paradise (The story of Joseph) (1452)

Ghiberti



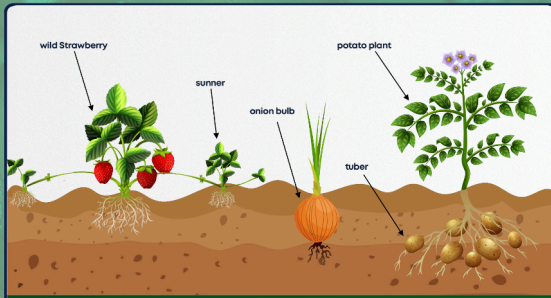
The Basilica of St Peter's

Vatican City, Rome



Il Duomo (Florence Cathedral)

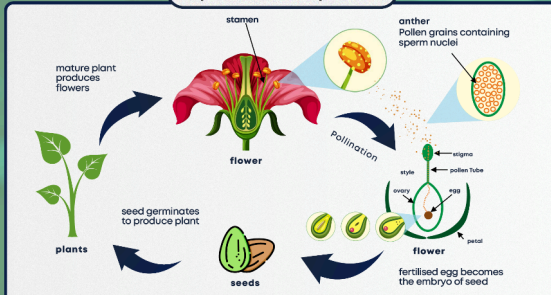
Florence



asexual

no male or female cells
genetic material is copied through cell division
occurs through spore formation
in plants often through cloning

reproduction in plants



sexual

male and female cells join to form a fertilised egg
in flowering plants the fertilised egg develops into an embryo of a seed
the seed develops to then grow into another plant

KEY VOCABULARY

reproduction

process of copying or making a copy, in animals reproduction **creates offspring**

asexual reproduction

form of reproduction where **offspring come from one living organism**

sexual reproduction

production of new organisms by **combining of genetic information** from a male and female cells

germinate

stage where a living thing starts to **sprout, grow and develop**

pollination

process when pollen moves from the male part of a flower (anther) to the female part of a flower (stigma)

fertilisation

male and female **gametes join to make a new organism**

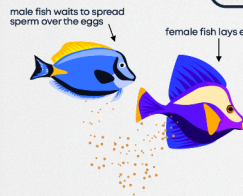
foetus

unborn offspring

gestation

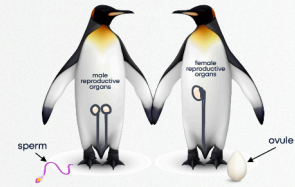
the **period of development** before birth

type of fertilisation



external

fertilisation takes place **outside the body**,
e.g., fish, amphibians and some insects



Internal

fertilisation takes place **inside the body**,
e.g., mammals including humans