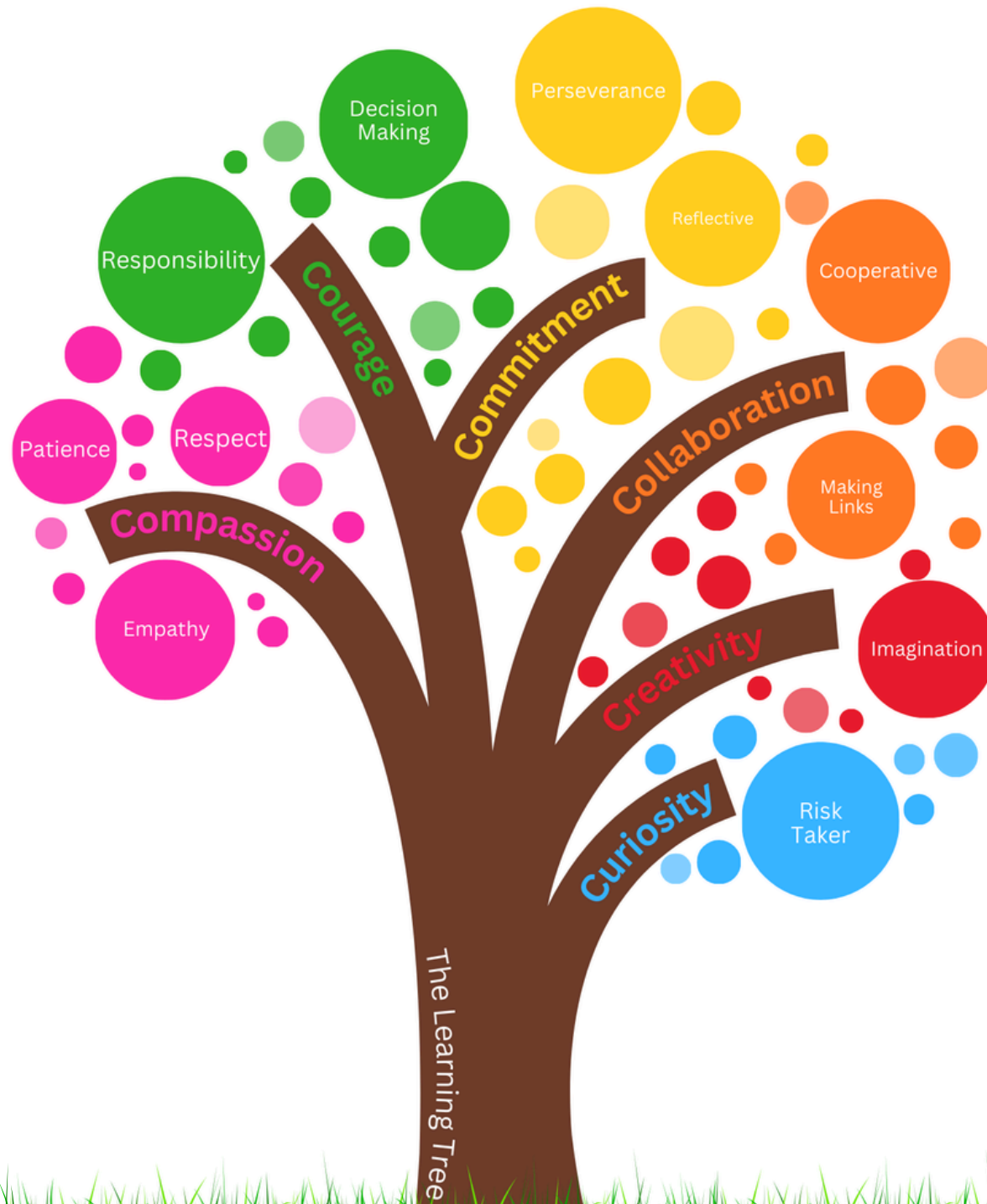




THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

Junior School Curriculum Summer Term 2026





PGS CORE

CURIOSITY
CREATIVITY
COMMITMENT
COURAGE
COMPASSION
COLLABORATION

Our Junior School Thematic Curriculum is designed to provide a rich, integrated learning experience for our pupils. This curriculum approach is centred around year group termly themes, each underpinned by a "big question" that connects all areas of learning. These themes encourage our pupils to think critically and make connections across subjects, fostering a deeper understanding of the material.

	EYFS A 2025/27	EYFS B 2024/26	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
AUTUMN TERM	Free To Be Me LC What are my feelings inside? BC What makes me special? YR How are we all unique?	Home Sweet Home LC Who lives here? BC What makes a home special? YR Home: A place or a feeling?	Heroes and Villains Can a villain ever be a hero?	Marvels of the World What makes something a marvel of the world?	Magic and Wonder How do we explain the unexplainable?	Hidden Depths How much of the past is hidden from us?	Power Vs Principles Decision-makers or rule-breakers?	Peace and Conflict Is global peace achievable in our lifetime?
SPRING TERM	Talents and Powers LC What is a superhero? BC Can you be a superhero? YR How can you use your superpower for good?	Look Up! LC What is above us? BC What makes our sky wonderful YR What can we learn from exploring the sky?	Beyond the Horizon What draws us to the mysteries of the oceans?	Bravery vs. Fear How do stories of bravery inspire us to face our own fears and challenges?	Conquerors How can the lessons of past conquerors inspire future leaders?	Invention and Innovation Are inventions limitless?	Conservation and Creation What does the future of our city/world look like?	Breaking Barriers Does stereotyping and prejudice stand in the way of individuals breaking barriers?
SUMMER TERM	The Earth Beneath My Toes LC Whose footprints are these? BC What is hiding here? YR What can we learn from digging in the dirt?	Imagination LC Can you tell me a story? BC What magical things can happen when you read a book? YR How can our imagination help us?	From Soil to Sky How has our world changed over time?	A Twist in the Tale Is change good or bad?	Myths and Legends How have stories influenced people's lives?	Exploration and Discovery What role does the past play in the future of exploration?	Crime and Punishment Do two wrongs make a right?	Crossing Borders Identity, belonging and home; Is nationality important or should we aspire to 'One World'?

Alongside subject and age specific skills and techniques to master, we look to develop three central **PGS Learn** skills to equip our pupils to succeed to the best of their ability in education now and in the future.

Initiative Leadership Advocacy

PGS Life skills are three crucial areas of expertise that we want to develop in our pupils so that they can flourish in the changing world beyond the school arches.



Pre-School: The Earth Beneath My Toes

Trips & Experiences

Our topic learning is brought to life through hands-on experiences, including hatching duck eggs, exploring mini beasts in the garden, and planting and growing our own plants. Our Pre-School Summer Celebration is an opportunity to share our highlights of the year through song, dance, photographs and memories. We will be visiting Reception and beginning to join assemblies and other routines around the school to support with a seamless transition to Reception.

Little Cubs: Whose footprints are those?

Big Cubs: What is hiding here?

Maths

Pupils will develop an understanding of sequencing, linking to life cycles, and will develop confidence in creating and extending repeating patterns. They will also explore using shapes for a purpose.

Literacy

Pupils will be building vocabulary through non-fiction texts and topic learning. Beginning to develop inference skills. Understanding how to use a non-fiction book with contents and glossary. Beginning to apply phonic knowledge to writing CVC words. Developing confidence in mark making and aural discrimination skills.

Understanding the World

Pupils will explore life cycles of bugs and animals and will learn about parts of minibeasts. They will attempt to grow and nurture plants and tend to living creatures, noticing changes over time.

Expressive Arts and Design

Pupils will combine different materials to create a range of effects, including shaping playdough and salt dough, printing and creating collages to represent different living things and their life cycles.

Physical Development

Pupils in Big Cubs will develop fine motor control and letter formation skills, writing their names and other letters or words. Little Cubs will build dexterity and strength through fine motor skills and sensory play. Big Cubs will partake in PE lessons in the Junior School and all children will be able to enjoy gross motor development in the outside space.

Communication and Language

Pupils will be building vocabulary through stories, non-fiction texts and topic learning, as well as answering how and why questions.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Pupils will begin to develop more independence in resolving conflict with peers and expressing their interests and emotions through speech.

Reception: The Earth Beneath My Toes

What can we learn from digging in the dirt?

Trips & Experiences

Caterpillar to Butterfly Experience;
Ducklings - Living Eggs Hatching
Experience; Pond Dipping
Experience; Butterfly Garden visit

Maths

Children will explore building numbers to 20 and beyond, recognise and count patterns, practise addition and subtraction. They will engage in sharing and grouping activities, explore even and odd numbers and develop their spatial reasoning skills.

Literacy

An exploration of the key texts *The Odd Egg* and *The Extraordinary Gardener*, alongside opportunities for children to create their own leaflets, instructions, and descriptive writing. Pupils will develop their inference, prediction, and summarising skills through a rich range of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Understanding the World

Children will explore similarities and differences between the past and present, developing their understanding of change over time. They will compare habitats from around the world and explore local wildlife habitats. Through observational drawings of animals and plants, children will develop their creativity and attention to detail, while building simple wildlife habitats to support their understanding of nature.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will explore role play in mini beast investigation areas and garden centres, using props to develop imagination and language. They will create natural art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, model mini beasts with clay and explore percussion instruments.

Physical Development

Children will develop water confidence and aquatic skills while continuing to practise and improve their basic swimming movements and control in the water. They will also develop athletics movement skills such as running, jumping and throwing in preparation for Sports Day. In addition, children will explore throwing and catching a variety of objects and develop their striking skills using different types of bats.

Communication and Language

Children will develop new vocabulary, retell stories from familiar texts, ask questions for clarity, and refine their speaking skills by using correct tenses and expanding sentence structures. They will practice descriptive language, engage in discussions, offer opinions, listen to others, and improve their ability to express ideas clearly and confidently.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will work collaboratively, develop independence and build resilience and perseverance. They will also understand the importance of making healthy food choices.

Year 1: From Soil to Sky

How has our world changed over time?

Trips & Experiences

Dinosaur Workshop at the Search
Museum;
Beep Beep Day, 28th April 2026

Maths

Children will develop number and measurement skills through multiplication, division, fractions, place value, money, and time, building understanding of tens, ones, equal sharing, and simple problem-solving.

Writing

Children will explore varied writing styles, develop grammar and sentence skills, and write in different tenses. Our key texts – *Dinosaurs* and *all that Rubbish* and *Stanley's Stick* – support topic links, role play, and presentations to enhance spoken and written English.

Reading

Children will build independence in applying skills like recall, prediction, summarising, and inference, while developing fluency, expression, and engagement with longer class texts

Science

Children will continue to explore habitats, including the animals and plants that live there. They will group animals according to what they eat and will identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Children will look at seasonal change and the weather associated with this.

History

Children will explore the Pre-Historic world this term as they investigate how the world has changed since dinosaurs roamed the planet and will imagine what life would be like now if dinosaurs had not gone extinct!

Geography

This term, children will explore how Earth has changed over time, learning about continents, oceans, weather patterns, and habitats—connecting geography to dinosaurs, climates, and the world today.

PSHE

Children will learn the importance of keeping their bodies healthy and safe through the RSE element of PSHE. They will explore NSPCC resources to understand the PANTS rule. Children will also explore how to manage emotions, value their thoughts, and speak with confidence and respect.

PRS

In the first half term, children will explore Hinduism from beliefs about the creation of the World including the Earth, Sky and Heaven to the symbolism of Hindu Mandirs with the roof design pointing to the sky and Hindu worship. In the second half term, children will learn different religious stories about animals.

Computing

Through the use of Espresso Coding, the children will explore how technology has changed the way that we play games. They will also explore how drawing experiences have changed when using technology.

French

In French this term, children will learn about the four seasons and how to express what they like about them. They will also learn a play based on *Harry and the Dinosaurs*.

Art

Children will explore animal evolution through art inspired by Audubon, using colour mixing, shading, and collage.

DT

In DT, they will plan, design and build fossil transporters before reflecting on their designs using iPads.

Music

In Music, children will explore high and low pitch using voices and instruments, learn steps in pitch, read scores, and create melodies showing growth or change over time.

Games / PE

Children will continue to develop and refine their swimming skills, focusing on stroke development while building confidence and stamina in the water. They will develop hand-eye coordination through striking and fielding practices, alongside improving their throwing and catching skills. Children will also begin to develop key athletic movements in preparation for Sports Day.

Year 2: A Twist in the Tale

Is change good or bad?

Trips & Experiences

Camping Experience; Trip to Staunton Country Park; Year 2 Musical; Beep Beep Day; a range of activities to support the transition to Year 3

Maths

Children will develop skills in fractions, telling the time, interpreting statistics, understanding position and direction and gaining confidence with applying a range of mental maths strategies to solve questions involving the 4 operations.

Writing

An exploration of the theme *A Twist in the Tale* using the texts *Jim and the Beanstalk* by Raymond Briggs and *Who's Bad and Who's Good, Little Red Riding Hood* by Steve Smallman. Outcomes will include script writing, biographies and narratives.

Reading

Children will revise and develop their vocabulary, inference, retrieval, prediction, explanation and summarising skills through a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts.

Science

Children will identify and name plants and animals in habitats, including microhabitats. They will explore plant structure and observe how seeds grow with water, light, and warmth.

History

Children will explore change through 2 lenses in History this term. They will learn all about growing crops and how new inventions have had an influence on farming over time. Later in the term, they will explore the historical figure Claude Monet and learn how he created change through art.

Geography

In this topic, children explore how weather, seasons, and landscapes change over time. Using maps, atlases, and compasses, they investigate hot and cold places, developing geographical vocabulary and fieldwork skills

PSHE

Children will explore physical differences between boys and girls in RSE, learn about consent using NSPCC resources, road safety on Beep Beep Day and money awareness.

PRS

In the first half term, children will explore Sikhism including learning about the Gurus and considering whether a change of person was good or bad. In the second half term, children will explore 'Nature and God' - looking at how nature is important across religions, making links between religions.

Computing

Children will be introduced to simple animation through flip books and Stop Motion. They will also begin to use Google Classroom and Google Drive, thinking about how this will change the way they learn and share work.

French

This term, children will look at the changes happening in nature. During their nature project, they will learn all the vocabulary for what nature produces: flowers, vegetables and fruits.

Art

In Art, children will develop their observational drawing skills and then use this to design and create a fish-inspired sewing project, learning key stitches and evaluating their finished pieces.

DT

They will design and make a simple fabric product, learning about different products to see what makes them useful and attractive, then share their own ideas through drawing, talking, templates and ICT. They will use a range of equipment to cut fabric, shape materials, join pieces together with simple stitching and finish their product safely. Pupils will think about what went well and how they could improve their work by evaluating it against the design criteria.

Music

In Music, children will develop performance skills for the Year 2 musical. They'll explore how sound represents good or bad, create accompaniments, and explore musical journeys.

Games / PE

Children will continue to develop their swimming skills. They will also build their understanding of games through competitive team play, focusing on teamwork and the principles of attacking and defending. These competitive elements will be explored through the sports of hockey and cricket, where children will learn the key skills needed for both practice and matches. Alongside this, they will also begin preparing and developing the skills needed for Sports Day.

Year 3: Myths and Legends

How have stories influenced people's lives?

Trips & Experiences
Viking Day; Residential Trip to Ufton
Court

Maths

Pupils will develop skills in measurement, number, and geometry through exploring capacity, mass, fractions, money, shapes, and data. They will solve real-life problems and create charts and graphs.

Writing

In writing, pupils will use the story, *Odd and the Frost Giants*, as a stimulus to create a range of texts. They will write descriptive poems, information texts and persuasive pieces. They will learn to organise ideas clearly into sentences and paragraphs. They will practise using grammar such as conjunctions and expanded noun phrases. Pupils will also develop their vocabulary to make their writing more engaging and effective.

Reading

Pupils will study *Odd and the Frost Giants*. They will develop their understanding of new vocabulary using clues from the text. They will practise answering questions about characters and events, as well as predicting what might happen next. They will learn to explain why things happen and how characters feel.

Pupils will also retrieve key information and summarise important parts of the story to build strong comprehension skills.

Science

Pupils will explore the functions of different plant parts and the requirements for growth. They will also investigate water transport, pollination, seed formation, and dispersal, conducting related experiments.

History

Pupils will be immersing themselves in the experiences of the Anglo-Saxons and then the Vikings, through our residential trip and experience days. They will consider how Anglo-Saxons and Vikings changed Britain and the influence that the stories from these periods in History have on them

Geography

Pupils will explore how myths and legends shape our understanding of places, settlements, and land use, linking storytelling with geography through enquiry, map skills, and historical connections.

PSHE

Pupils will consider their responses to: 'How should we eat well and look after our teeth?' and 'Why should we keep active and sleep well?' In RSE, pupils will explore gender stereotypes, aspirations and relationships.

PRS

Consideration of whether religious stories help people live their lives. In the first half term, pupils will learn about Saxon Gods and the introduction of Christianity to Britain. In the second half term, pupils will learn about Buddhism including the story of Buddha's life.

Computing

This term, pupils will explore computing skills like debugging, coding with sequence and selection, using Espresso Coding, Scratch, Typsey, alongside understanding the internet, and using Google Suite.

French

Learning how to order ice cream and name different flavours in Year 3 French links to the theme of "myths and legends" by giving pupils a fun, imaginative context in which to practise speaking and make simple choices. It encourages them to use new vocabulary confidently and creatively, as if taking part in a magical feast or market from a story.

Art

In Art pupils will observe and draw mushrooms using various mediums, create polystyrene relief prints and sew fabric collages with different stitches.

DT

Children will explore how mechanical systems (gears, pulleys, cams, levers, and linkages) work and apply their understanding to create moving models inspired by myths and legends. Through hands on tasks, children will design and build mechanical devices that bring famous mythological stories to life. They will finish their project by participating in their very own Mythical Creatures 'Dragons Den' style project to pitch their ideas.

Performing Arts

Dance: pupils will be looking at different animals and their physical qualities. Creating dance sequences that show, through movement, their physical differences. Drama: pupils will explore *Beowulf*, bringing characters to life and applying key drama skills. Music: they'll learn Anglo-Saxon and Viking saga songs, exploring tempo, dynamics, and instruments to evoke mood and atmosphere.

Games / PE

Pupils will develop essential swimming skills focusing on technique and water safety. They will also engage with athletics and cricket, learning the fundamentals of running, jumping, throwing, catching, bowling and batting.

Year 4: Exploration and Discovery

What role does the past play in the future of exploration?

Trips & Experiences

Mary Rose Museum Visit; Residential Trip to Marchants Hill PGL Centre

Maths

Pupils will develop skills in decimals, money, time, shapes and graphs. They will focus on real-life problemsolving, telling time and exploring 2D and 3D shapes, and creating charts, including line graphs.

Writing

Our text driver will be *Turtle Moon* by Hannah Gold. We will be focussing on descriptive writing, writing our own narrative, persuasive texts and poetry.

Reading

We will be reading *Turtle Moon* by Hannah Gold, using our VIPER skills to help us identify new vocabulary, use inference and predictions and be able to confidently answer comprehension questions, explaining our answers and using quotes retrieved from the text.

Science

This term pupils will explore living things, habitats, classification, food chains and webs, alongside lessons on puberty and the impact of explorers on ecosystems.

History

Pupils will carry out a chronological study of exploration, including a range of well-known voyages and explorers. They will also conduct an in depth study of the Tudors and the legacy of exploration of this era with a focus on shipbuilding in Portsmouth.

Geography

In Geography, pupils will explore the diverse landscapes of the USA, focussing on the National Parks. They will learn about different ecosystems, geographical features, and the importance of conservation.

PSHE

Pupils will explore their responses to: 'How can our choices make a difference to others and the environment?' and 'How will we grow and change?' In RSE, pupils will learn about their personal and private body parts; and looking after their bodies.

PRS

In the first half of the term, pupils will explore Christianity and King Henry VIII's role in creating the Church of England. In the second half term, pupils will explore pilgrimage: travelling to explore and discover faith.

Computing

In the first half of the term, pupils will be using Stop Motion Animation to create a short clip about an explorer. After half term, the children will use Python coding, learning how to code turtle graphics.

French

Learning about rooms in the house and family, French links to the theme of "exploration and discovery" by encouraging pupils to explore how homes and family life are described in another language and culture. It helps them discover new vocabulary to talk about the people and places closest to them, building curiosity, comparison, and confidence in communicating about everyday life.

Art

In Art, pupil will carry out observational drawings of a doll's head, study *The Execution of Lady Jane Grey*, analyse Tudor portraiture, and create a Tudor style self portrait.

DT

In DT, pupils will learn more about where food comes from, from farm to plate, cooking with seasonal products. They will refine their design skills looking at the works of influential designers and how to successfully evaluate work.

Performing Arts

Dance: Pupils are travelling around the world to learn different dance styles from different cultures as well as continuing to learn dance techniques. Drama: In Drama, pupils will create and perform their own poems using key drama skills. Music: In Music, pupils will develop musicianship while exploring signals in music and Morse code's influence on modern music and exploration.

Games / PE

Pupils will develop essential swimming skills focusing on technique and water safety. They will also engage with athletics and cricket, learning the fundamentals of running, jumping, throwing, catching, bowling and batting.

Year 5: Crime and Punishment

Do two wrongs make a right?

Trips & Experiences

Crime and Punishment Workshop;
Residential Trip to Land & Wave

Maths

Pupils will explore angles, coordinates, negative numbers, and units of measure, learning to estimate angles, plot coordinates, understand real-world applications of negative numbers, and convert between units like capacity and volume.

Writing

Using the text, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*, as inspiration, pupils will complete a range of writing tasks, including a reflective diary, a balanced discussion and a persuasive speech. They will learn how to organise their ideas clearly, write for different audiences and purposes, and select vocabulary carefully to create specific effects. Grammar and punctuation will be taught alongside writing to help pupils improve accuracy and confidence in their work.

Reading

Pupils will read *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*, exploring themes such as bravery, friendship and fairness. They will develop key reading skills including understanding new vocabulary, making inferences about characters' thoughts and feelings, and explaining how events and choices shape the story. Pupils will consider the author's intent and discuss how the text encourages the reader to form opinions about the characters.

Science

This term, pupils will explore lifecycles, reproduction, inheritance and the human lifecycle. They will also discuss nature's fairness, imbalances and the role of nature vs. nurture.

History

This term is a study of a theme through time, looking at crime and punishment using legends such as Robin Hood and a range of sources to identify changes and similarities in our justice system today.

Geography

Pupils will explore Australia and study the penal system, exploring the human geography elements of convict transportation, penal colonies, and its lasting impact on society, culture, and urban development.

PSHE

How can drugs common to everyday life affect health? What changes will happen to me as I get older? What jobs would we like? In RSE pupils will explore changing relationships and friendships; physical and emotional changes during puberty; reproduction and the human lifecycle.

PRS

In the first half term, pupils will explore Christianity and forgiveness through the Easter story, questioning if it's always best to forgive. In the second half term, pupils will explore Sikhism and investigate the Kirpan and the 5Ks, considering if we need to fight for what is right.

Computing

Pupils will use Espresso Coding, exploring HTML formatting, learning how to create a website and how to change its appearance. In the second half of the term, pupils will use Minecraft Education to demonstrate their coding capabilities.

French

Studying art and descriptive adjectives in Year 5 French supports the theme of "crime and punishment" by helping pupils observe details closely, describe characters and scenes, and discuss feelings or actions in French. This builds the vocabulary they need to talk about suspects, evidence, and behaviour, while also encouraging careful observation and interpretation.

Art

In Art, pupils will analyse Jean Michel Basquiat's Art, create mixed media paintings with personal slogans in his style.

DT

In DT, the children will learn how to create their own design criteria based on a user. In food technology they will explore their theme by investigating whether "two wrongs make a right" through cooking challenges that turn kitchen mistakes into creative dishes, encouraging them to reflect on fairness, consequences, and problem-solving.

Performing Arts

Dance: Pupils will be developing and securing dance techniques, focusing on feet, leg and arm positions as well as learning many different dance styles. Drama: Pupils will explore and apply the mime technique to develop their understanding of character. Music: Pupils will explore how dynamics, tempo, and expression convey emotions, using these elements to create rhythmic and melodic accompaniments that enhance a story's character.

Games / PE

Pupils will develop their skills in cricket and athletics, focusing on batting, bowling, fielding and track and field events. They will enhance their physical fitness, coordination and teamwork through practice and friendly competitions.



Year 6: Crossing Borders

Trips & Experiences
Jami Mosque Visit; Fiver Challenge;
London Residential; Play in a Fortnight;
Sita Brahmachari Workshop

Identity, belonging and home; is nationality important or should we aspire to 'One World'?

Maths

Pupils will focus on problem-solving and applying their number skills to real-world challenges. In the final week, pupils will become entrepreneurs in the Fiver Challenge, aiming for business success.

Reading

Pupils will be using their inference and retrieval skills when reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar. A hilarious and powerful story about crime, punishment and redemption.

History

Pupils will explore the history of migration to Britain. They will study the push and pull factors that influenced migration, using case studies to deepen understanding. Additionally, they will focus on how migration has impacted Britain, with a particular look at Portsmouth and its local history.

PSHE

Pupils will explore their responses to: 'What will change as we become more independent?' and 'How do friendships change as we grow?' In RSE pupils will learn about pregnancy, fertility, birth and gender equality.

Computing

Pupils will design and develop a game in Kodu that explores themes of identity, belonging, and home. They will then create a digital escape room that challenges players to think about identity, belonging and nationality through problem-solving.

Art

In Art, pupils will create a tonal drawing of a butterfly from observation and create a watercolour painting.

Games / PE

Pupils will develop their skills in cricket and athletics, focusing on batting, bowling, fielding and track and field events. They will enhance their physical fitness, coordination and teamwork through practice and friendly competitions.

Writing

Pupils will study *Holes* by Louis Sachar, exploring themes of identity, belonging, and home. They will also reflect on how personal and cultural identity shapes experiences, fostering critical thinking, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the world.

Science

In the first half term, pupils will study forces such as mass, weight, gravity, resistance and simple machines, exploring the connection to nationality and global unity. Later in the term, they will focus on the heart, circulation, and major organs, reflecting on the unity of the human body.

Geography

Pupils will study migration in Mexico as part of the "Crossing Borders" topic. They will explore the reasons behind migration and its impact on Mexican society. This will deepen their understanding of migration's global significance and its social and political implications.

PRS

Pupils will explore their response to 'Does religion help give a Muslim a sense of identity and give them a feeling of belonging?' Pupils will learn about Muslim worship and identity by exploring the 5 Pillars of Islam.

French

Pupils will have a look at a specific region of France in the first half term, Normandie. In the second half of the term, they will broaden their horizons and learn about the Francophonie - all the countries in the world that speak French!

DT

In DT, children will be designing and making prototypes of a system that solves a real world problem. In food technology they will explore their theme by preparing dishes from around the world, celebrating global cultures and encouraging the idea of being one world community.

Performing Arts

Dance: Pupils will be exploring how the characters from *Alice in Wonderland* move and learning choreography sequences to perform in the Year 6 show. Drama: Pupils will use drama skills and techniques to bring *Alice in Wonderland* to life, developing collaboration skills by working carefully together as a year group. They will also be thinking about all aspects of the theatre production experience and creating set, props, costumes, sound and lighting to enhance their performance. Music: In Music, they will be exploring cyclic patterns from around the world. Using cyclic patterns as a creative focus, pupils will explore repeating musical structures found in different cultures around the world. These patterns will help them understand how traditions and identities are expressed through music, while also showing connections between cultures. They will also develop performance skills as they work towards the Year 6 Musical.



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