



Year 5 and 6 Curriculum

Introduction

These are very important years with the pupils experiencing a broader curriculum. The expectations are higher, not just in terms of academic progress, but also in taking responsibility for oneself and behaving in a more mature manner.

The children will be supported in their academic work and pastoral growth by a form teacher, monitoring their progress and acting as appropriate with any issues which arise over the course of a term.

Michaelmas Term – there will be a Parents' Interview Evening and you will receive a short End of Term Report.

Lent Term – you will receive a full End of Term Report on all subjects

Summer Term – you will receive a full End of Term Report on all subjects.

Homework

The pupils in Years 5 and 6 have a very full and busy school day, so homework will be set at a reasonable level, taking no longer than thirty minutes. Conflict over homework at home is counter-productive, and tasks are generally designed to extend or reinforce the work covered in class. At times, pupils may be asked to read something new in preparation for the next lesson. All homework will be set on Microsoft Teams, where pupils can see what they need to do and when it is due. Each child is responsible for submitting their work to the appropriate teacher upon completion. If your child experiences any particular difficulty with their homework, please let us know through email. Alongside set tasks, regular reading remains an important priority.

'Homework' is a misnomer – pupils may complete it after school in Homework Club.

Equipment

We would like each child to bring to school the following items, which should be named.

- iPad (specs to follow in later correspondence)
- One pencil case containing: HB pencils, an eraser, a sharpener and a set of colouring pencils (felt-tips are optional)
- A glue stick
- A pair of scissors
- A standard length ruler (30 cm)
- A named calculator (A scientific calculator is required for Year 6).
- A protractor

We request that children only bring in one suitably sized pencil case so that their desk is kept as clear as possible for working on and bags don't become too heavy.

Learning Support

Haileybury is a non-selective school, and we welcome children who may require some additional support. We believe that the strengths of every child should be celebrated, and it is understood that some may require specific tools or learning interventions at different stages of their journey through the school to achieve their best. The Learning Support staff work closely with both class

teachers and parents. Please contact the Head of Learning Support and SENDCo, should you have any queries regarding learning support.

English

All pupils will need to focus on two principal objectives: they will need to become colourful writers and critical readers. In today's society, discernment and eloquence are valuable commodities and it is important that the children feel confident in expressing themselves in the written and spoken word.

Throughout the year, the pupils will be encouraged to sharpen their speaking and listening skills in a range of contexts and tasks including debates, role plays, presentations, recitals and discussions.

All pupils will study a number of set texts in class and will also be given excerpts from a wide range of genres of fiction and non-fiction including narrative, creative texts including poetry, short stories, diaries, argumentative texts including persuasive devices, reports and speeches. The set texts will be different in Year 5 and 6, again crossing a range of genres. Their reading skills will be continually monitored in comprehension exercises and discussions and formal reading comprehension assessments will be practised throughout the year.

The children will be asked to complete many creative writing assignments as they develop their use and appreciation of figurative language. To grow into effective writers, the pupils will learn to make use of colourful, engaging description and characterisation in compositions. This will also incorporate weekly lessons focusing on aspects of spelling, grammar and punctuation so that by the end of Key Stage 2, students will have a command of all of these aspects in their written work.

Mathematics

Our core scheme is White Rose Maths, which provides thorough coverage of the Year 5 and 6 syllabus and ensures pupils develop strong problem-solving and reasoning skills. This is supplemented by the Galore Park Maths textbooks, which take mathematical learning beyond the National Curriculum and help to extend and support pupils further. Together, these resources give pupils a solid grounding in Maths, equipping them well for future IGCSE study.

Topics in Year 5 and Year 6 do broadly overlap but are taken to a greater depth in Year 6.

- Place value, ordering and rounding
- Length, capacity and mass
- Basic properties of number and number sequences
- Time (measurement and problems)
- The four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Coordinates
- Organising and interpreting data
- Rapid recall of multiplication and division facts including times tables up to 12
- Shape and space (2D and 3D)
- Angles and bearings
- Mental calculation strategies
- Transformations: reflections, translations and rotations
- Roman numerals

- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Symmetry
- Ratio and proportion
- Area and Perimeter
- Probability
- Metric measurements
- Coordinates in four quadrants
- Properties of a circle, finding area and circumference

During Year 6, the pupils are continually, but informally, assessed and tested. Pupils are encouraged to:

- Apply their knowledge of mathematics in real life concepts
- Make decisions and solve problems
- Ask and respond to questions using the correct mathematical language
- Develop thinking skills
- Develop practical skills

Maths homework will be set weekly. If parents would like to help at home, regular tables practice, and simple mental arithmetic tests would be of great value. In addition, some children are less confident dealing with time (12/24 hour clock and calculating elapsed time) and metric measurement. Anything parents can do to practise these topics will be of great help to the children.

Science

Year 5

Science involves learning about the world around us. Children will be encouraged to develop their natural curiosity and sense of wonder as they study each topic. They will learn via a range of methods including discussion, practical activities and research, as well as being guided through the process of creating a more formal scientific report.

Autumn

- Separating Substances
- Properties of materials

Spring

- Life Cycles in animals and plants / Plant biology
- Forces; including gravity, air and water resistance and friction

Summer

- The Solar System
- Changes in humans from infant to old age / comparison between gestation periods

Year 6

Science in Year 6 builds on pupils' curiosity about the world around them while encouraging greater independence in their learning. Alongside discussion, practical activities, and research, pupils will carry out a range of scientific investigations, developing their skills in planning, predicting, observing, and drawing conclusions. They will also be guided through the process of presenting their findings clearly in more formal scientific reports, strengthening both their scientific understanding and communication skills.

Physics

- Forces: magnets, gravity, air resistance, friction, floating & upthrust
- Electricity: simple and extended circuits, parallel and series
- Light: behaviour of light, light sources, how we see

Chemistry

- Reversible and irreversible reactions
- Heat: temperature, insulation and conduction, burning

Biology

- Impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on bodily functions
- Circulatory System and the functions of the components
- Adaptation, evolution and inheritance
- Variation and Classification of living things

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 will undertake a course which follows the National Curriculum for Computing which includes Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy. The skills and knowledge developed in the course introduce certain fundamental principles of the subject and build on those gained lower down the school. All pupils from Year 5 upwards must have an iPad as part of their school kit list (further details to follow).

The units of study are designed to be informative, motivational and above all fun. They will help to foster independence, resilience and a desire to succeed, building confidence, through the development of skills and understanding, in a subject area which has a huge impact on our day-to-day world. The embedded problem solving and ICT content will also be of benefit to pupils from a cross-curricular point of view, and of course, become invaluable skills for life.

Geography

Year 5 pupils will begin with world map skills, learning to identify continents, countries, seas, and oceans while using coordinates to locate places accurately. They will explore the Equator, climate zones, and how these influence different regions, with particular focus on rainforests and animal migration. Pupils will then study coasts and erosion, as well as touching on the water cycle and its impact on river networks. Finally, they will learn about different types of settlement and complete a map project using their coordinate skills.

In Year 6, pupils will study natural disasters, including tsunamis, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes, exploring their causes and effects. They will then look at water sources, such as aquifers, desalination plants, and issues of water scarcity, before studying hydrodams and renewable energy. Pupils will also carry out a city development project, work with coordinates for mapping tasks, and complete a comparison project between countries to explore differences in development.

History

Year 5 pupils will begin by studying Ancient Greece, learning about its society, ideas, and lasting impact on modern life. They will then move on to the Early Islamic Civilisation, exploring its culture, achievements, and influence on the wider world. Later in the year, pupils will study the causes, events, and consequences of World War One, developing a deeper understanding of this significant period in history.

In Year 6, pupils will start with a Timeline Project to strengthen their chronological understanding of key historical events. They will then study the Shang Dynasty, exploring its culture, technology, and beliefs. Moving forward, pupils will learn about World War Two, examining both the events and their global impact. Finally, they will investigate Crime and Punishment throughout history, comparing how laws and justice systems have changed over time.

Key Skills

- Further development of listening, reasoning, contributing and recording skills
- The learning of key dates and key spellings
- The evaluation of evidence provided by primary and secondary sources
- Essay writing
- Chronological understanding

Languages

Pupils in the Prep School learn Spanish.

TPE (Theology, Philosophy and Ethics)

In Year 5, pupils begin by learning about Judaism, exploring its key beliefs and practices, before moving on to a comparison of Christmas traditions across different cultures. They will then study the basics of Islam, followed by the story and significance of Easter. Later in the year, pupils will focus on Sikhism, looking at its main teachings and practices to deepen their understanding of this faith.

In Year 6, pupils will study rites of passage across various religions, learning about their meaning and importance. They will then explore pilgrimages and the role of holy books in different faiths. The course will also cover places of worship and how they are used in religious communities. Finally, pupils will examine Christian teachings on justice, considering how these beliefs influence moral decision-making.

The Arts

Music, Drama and Art are timetabled curriculum subjects and are just as important as the core subjects. Pupils are encouraged to explore their talents in these areas.

We encourage the children to explore various acting techniques and themes through their devised and scripted group work. Our aim is to promote their personal, social and cultural awareness through a creative atmosphere. Pupils are encouraged to explore emotions and characterisation through improvisation and scripted text.

An integral part of music lessons is the practical involvement of pupils regardless of their apparent ability and whether they play an instrument or not - all can be successful composers and listeners and performers. The emphasis of the music lessons in Year 5 and 6 is upon practical music making and full participation. By the end of Year 6 pupils should be able to use rhythmic notation freely and be able to start to read, play and write simple melodies. They will also study music from around the world, and through composition and listening, pupils will initially analyse general musical structures to allow a deeper understanding.

Art in Years 5 and 6 enables children to develop observation and recording skills focussing on tone, texture and colour. These studies will be based on the theme of birds. They will then develop their work into 3D using a range of materials. The second project has the cross curricular theme of the Aztecs where children design their own geometric repeating pattern and print using 2 colours. They may also do a mixed media sea-life picture combining a range of art skills. In the spring we aim to get outside to draw in the school grounds, landscapes and flower studies.

Personal, Social and Health Education with Citizenship

The PSHE and RSE programme promotes thoughtful and positive thinking about the individual, their role in society and health issues relevant to the age group. It helps to give children the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. PSHE tackles many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) issues that are part of growing up.

Citizenship involves preparing the child for life as a responsible citizen; that is, teaching 'skills for life'. PSHE underpins all the teaching, learning and playing in the School, and works hand-in-hand with the pastoral care of the whole School. It allows children to discuss themes and role-play certain situations in the safe and caring environment of the classroom, enabling them to be more confident when facing similar situations in the future. At its heart lies group work which can facilitate open attitudes towards dialogue, discussion, and consideration of multiple perspectives. It shows a respect and interest for the whole child and not just their academic ability, physical or artistic skill. Its aim is to nurture responsible, well-informed and caring individuals. Different themes will be explored in a specific lesson each week and in assemblies where appropriate. Aspects of PSHE will be covered in specific subjects where relevant - for example, 'Healthy Eating' in Science. We follow the statutory guidance for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Communication

Please note that teaching staff rarely have the opportunity to read or reply to email during the course of the school day as they are busy teaching your children, so do please allow a reasonable amount of time before expecting a reply. Any urgent messages should be conveyed through the school office.

We are always happy to see you regarding any worries or concerns. We prefer to feel that we are all working together and if queries are dealt with at an early stage, then any issues can be kept to a minimum and both you and your children can look forward to a happy and productive year.