



During this half term our enquiry is:

What does it mean to be ‘fit for life’?

Through this short enquiry children will explore the question ‘What does it mean to be fit for life?’ They will revisit learning from year 3 and Year 4 about the main body parts and internal organs (skeletal, muscular and digestive system) to explore and answer questions that help them to understand how the circulatory system enables the body to function. The context for this enquiry comes from the fiction text ‘Pig Heart Boy’ by Malorie Blackman in which a boy receives a pig heart transplant. This text will stimulate learning in Science where children will explore how similar a human heart is to other animal hearts; investigate the impact of diet and exercise on the way their bodies function and explore the spread and impact microorganisms (specifically viruses). Through PSHE, P4C and circle time children will discuss and debate the ethics involved in using animals to medically benefit humans; they will explore how to make choices and build habits that keep them fit both mentally and physically; and discuss the concept of respect for all living things.

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
English	<p>In English this half term, the children will begin by reading a range of non-fiction texts about the heart, circulatory system and the impact of diet and exercise on our bodies. Through their reading, they will retrieve and learn some of the core knowledge linked to our science based enquiry and practise navigating, retrieving and summarising key information from non-fiction. We will then move on to read a fictional narrative, Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman. This text follows the story of Cameron Kelsey, who just wants to be a normal teenager. He has a mostly normal teenage life – mates, bullies, parents who argue, a girl he fancies but isn’t sure she fancies him back. But he is a teenager with a big problem – following a viral infection, he has been told his heart is going to give out and his prospects look bleak. Until, that is, he is offered a controversial, uncertain, untried and untested solution, to have his failing heart replaced with a healthy pig’s heart. This powerful novel explores themes of choice, ethics, family and what it means to be a teenager. The children will have the opportunity to write in role, explore how the main character is developed, debate the pros and cons of different decisions and write their own powerful openings linked to this text.</p> <p>Finally, the year 6 children will get into the Christmas spirit and write a descriptive story based on one of the previous John Lewis Christmas advert</p>	<p>Hacker is another great text by Malorie Blackman. This fictional thriller is all about hacking computer files to prove the innocence of Vicky, the main protagonist’s father. There is one available on your class bookshelf – why not give this a go as your next read?</p> <p>Reading Plus If you are able to, log onto Reading Plus at home and complete one session each week. In school, three times per week, we are using this programme to support children in developing fluency, pace and comprehension reading skills. Each child has their own login. Please see your class teacher if you have any problems with this. <u>School site code:</u> rpwestp5 Login here: https://student.readingplus.com/seereader/api/sec/login</p> <p>More information can be found here: https://www.readingplus.co.uk/customer-support/parents-and-students/</p>



	<p>videos – The Bear and The Hare. The children’s writing will build on their descriptive writing skills from Autumn 1 and look to build cohesion between paragraphs.</p> <p>You can find the clip here: https://www.literacyshed.com/bearandhare.html</p>	
Maths	<p>In maths this term the children will continue to develop their arithmetic skills on a daily basis. Application of these skills will be practised through reasoning questions regularly to ensure fluency. After completion of our calculation unit, the children will focus on fractions this term. They will recap on skills learnt in previous year groups and learn new concepts, including simplifying fractions, working with mixed numbers and improper fractions and finding common denominators. This will support their learning in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions.</p>	<p>Keep practising those times tables through Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) as you need to keep your recall knowledge sharp. You might want to explore other ways of learning your tables using singing videos on Youtube.</p>
Science	<p>During this unit of work, children will learn about the importance of the circulatory system and how it transports oxygen around our body. They will learn about the heart and how it is an important muscle in our bodies. Children will learn about their heart rate and different activities that can increase the heart rate. Children will learn about being healthy and things they can do to lead a healthy lifestyle as well as learning about things that people do that can cause them to be unhealthy. Children will also dip into the subject of microorganisms – specifically viruses and their spread and impact – in order to enhance their understanding of the class text.</p>	<p>Practise your Scientific enquiry skills:</p> <p>Research – How have our ideas about disease and medicine changed over time? Find out about a key scientist linked to the topic: <i>Justus von Liebig</i> (Theories of Nutrition and Metabolism) <i>Sir Richard Doll</i> (Linking Smoking and Health Problems) <i>Leonardo Da Vinci</i> (Anatomy)</p> <p>Pattern Seeking – Plan an investigation to find out if there is a pattern between what we eat for breakfast and how fast we can run.</p> <p>Observation over Time – How much exercise do you do in a week? Keep a diary and use this to draw a bar chart or graph.</p> <p>Comparative Testing – Plan an investigation to find out ‘How does the length of time we exercise for affect our heart rate?’</p>
Physical Education	<p>This half term, year 6 will be taking part in PE on Mondays and Thursdays. The children will take part in dance and basketball this half term. Please bring your PE kit into school on a Monday morning – you can leave it in class for the week.</p>	<p>I wonder if you can set yourself a physical challenge to help you keep fit and healthy this half term.</p> <p>How does exercise make you feel? Consider how you feel before, during and after physical activity.</p>



	<p>On a Monday afternoon, Year 6 will take part in outdoor PE with Mrs Black. Make sure you have outdoor footwear and weather appropriate clothing as this lesson will take place on the school field.</p> <p>On a Thursday afternoon, Class 11 will be going swimming and Class 12 will have an indoor PE lesson in school.</p>	
<p>PSHCE</p>	<p>This half term as a whole school, we come together to celebrate Anti-Bullying week from Monday 13th – Friday 17th November. The theme this year is ‘Make A Noise About Bullying’. During this week, we come together to discuss what we mean by bullying behaviour, how we can tell the difference between ‘banter’ and bullying and how we can make changes to reduce bullying. Together, we can make a difference if we make a noise to stop bullying!</p> <div data-bbox="949 571 1346 799" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>In PSHCE this half term, the children will learn about how to keep themselves physically fit and healthy. We will begin the half term by focussing on healthy eating and what makes up a balanced diet. This develops the children’s knowledge from key stage one, about different food groups and how food affects their bodies. They explore what people should eat more or less of and consider the issue of hidden sugars. Pupils also learn about simple food swaps and ideas to help them develop healthy eating habits. We go on to discuss situations where choosing the healthier option may be more difficult and explore the link between outside influences, personal and social choices; and how to manage situations sensitively by taking a balanced approach. The children then have the opportunity to plan and prepare a family meal. This is designed to give pupils the skills and confidence to try cooking at home and is linked to our DT for this half term: cooking and nutrition. Towards the end of the half term, the children learn about different types of exercise needed to grow healthy bodies and minds. It focuses on developing healthy habits, variety and balance, including integrating short bursts of physical activity across the day to gradually increase physical activity. We also discuss the</p>	<p>Watch the video below:</p> <p>https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/resources/be-food-smart-film-2</p> <p>After watching this film pupils can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find out how much sugar, saturated fat and salt is in their food and drink • compare different products based on their nutritional content • use all of this information to make healthier choices <p>Download the Be Food Smart App on a tablet or smartphone. Scan the bar code on different food packaging to investigate the contents.</p> <p>What can your report back?</p> <p>https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/nhs-food-scanner/id1182946415</p> <hr/> <p>Help out with planning a family meal at home and the grocery shopping. Can you identify the food groups you are consuming throughout the day?</p>



	benefits of living healthier lifestyle as well as some of the barriers that can arise and work together to explore possible solutions.	
Religious Education	<i>Is it better to express your belief in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?</i> This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from two different religions about why their holy buildings and works of art matter to them as expressions of devotion to God and worship, and about how they practice generosity and charity.	<p>Research religious buildings. How are they special? Compare and contrast special buildings from different religions.</p> <p>Find some examples of religious art. How is art from different religions similar/different?</p>
DT	In DT we will be cooking produce to sell at our Christmas Fayre. We will be practising different skills to make Christmas Mince pies and Gingerbread, including: combining ingredients appropriately e.g. beating or rubbing; and measuring ingredients to the nearest gram and millilitre and calculate ratios of ingredients to scale up or down from a recipe.	<p>With an adult, why not practise some of your DT cooking skills. Try changing/adapting a recipe slightly to suit your taste. Scale a recipe up or down to make more or less.</p> <p>Here are some easy to follow recipes below:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/ginger_sponge_cake_51697</p> <p>https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/ginger-biscuits</p>
Music	This term, Class 12 will receive weekly singing tuition from Durham Music Service. They will be creating a 'Rock Choir', building on the many skills required to perform confidently. Integrated into their sessions, they will revisit some of the dimensions of music including pitch, dynamics, timbre, rhythm and tempo. They will also develop knowledge of music notation. (Class 11 will be swimming during this session but will receive 'Rock Band' tuition later in the year)	<p>Sing!!</p> <p>Sing along to songs on the radio (Spotify/Amazon Music or whichever musical device you have)</p> <p>Sing in the shower!</p> <p>Sing in the car!</p> <p>Just have fun singing. . .</p>
Computing	Creating Media – Web page creation: This unit introduces learners to the creation of websites for a chosen purpose. Learners identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process learners pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.	<p>Compare websites - look at two of your favourite websites and sketch them, detailing the similarities and differences.</p> <p>Find out about 'Copyright' and 'fair use' linked to websites and website creation.</p>
French	In French lessons, we will be completing our previous unit 'Je Me Presente' (Presenting Myself) ensuring that we are able to recall a range of core vocabulary including colours, numbers, basic greetings and replying to/asking simple questions.	<p>A great app, which you can use for free, is 'Duolingo'. </p> <p>Make sure you choose French as the chosen language. </p>



Homework

Each week, the children will receive homework on a **Friday**. This should be returned to school the following **Wednesday**.

Reading

- All children will have a reading record. The expectation is that children in year 6 read for a sustained period of time each night and really 'get into a good book'. Their reading record should be returned to school each Friday to be checked by a member of staff who will change reading books when needed.
- Although many children in year 6 are fluent readers and are likely to be reading independently by this age, parents/carers still need to hear them read out loud to develop their fluency and expression in harder texts.

Spelling

- Each week, the children will learn and focus on a spelling rule or word(s) from the year 5/6 statutory word list. Children will have spelling activities as part of their homework - this will be in preparation for a spelling test each Monday.

Maths

- Maths homework will focus on children's fluency skills and will be linked to the week's learning. The children should be familiar with the style of questions on the homework and use this as an opportunity to practice and rehearse their skills.

Punctuation and Grammar

- Punctuation and grammar questions may be set as part of homework and will reflect the focus of the week's learning.

Enquiry – Wider Curriculum

- There are suggested activities in each half term's overview linked to the wider curriculum to complete at home. In addition, the children may receive some homework linked to the curriculum enquiry. This will be optional project/creative activities.

In year 6 we aim to get the balance right and work with parents to best prepare children for the expectations of each stage of learning. It is worth noting that getting children into the habit of regular homework prepares them for the demands of secondary school. If a child in year 6 does not complete the homework set on a regular basis the child will be expected to complete it in their own time. We expect everyone to be treated equally and all children are required to complete homework. Class teachers are available to support and help children with their homework if they are stuck or unsure – please do not hesitate to ask.