

"The Victorians"

Curriculum Newsletter - Norwich

Year 5

Autumn Term 2026/2027

English

Our English this term will be linked to our topic of The Victorians. We will be reading many novels including "Street Child" by Bertie Doherty and "The Nowhere Emporium" by Ross MacKenzie. Throughout the term we will be looking at narrative poetry, narrative fictional writing and learning how to write a non-fictional balanced argument. Over the course of the term, we will focus on the many expected elements of spelling, punctuation and grammar to ensure we can use these confidently and effectively in our writing.



Mathematics

Number and Place Value

Reading, writing, comparing and ordering numbers up to a million; knowing the value of each digit and using this knowledge to solve mathematical challenges; using negative numbers in context and reading and writing the date in Roman numerals.

Addition and Subtraction and Multiplication and Division

Developing fluency in mental calculations and ensuring secure understanding to use and apply written methods for all four operations. Use and apply prime numbers, factors and prime factors when solving problems.

Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) - This aspect of Mathematics will play a crucial part of our learning this term. We will be focusing on place value to a million, recalling multiplication facts (factors) and decimal bonds to 1.



History

Our topic this term is The Victorians. We will be stepping back into the 19th century to find out who Queen Victoria was and what she was like. We will also be discovering what life was like for the Victorians through exploring some of the social and technological advances of the time, as well as looking at leisure, the arts and entertainment. In the second half of the term, we will focus our attention on the life of Victorian children. We will discover what life would have been like if we had been born in the 19th century. As part of our topic, we will be comparing the lifestyles of both poor and rich Victorian children and finding out what it would have been like to attend to a Victorian school! Finally we will look at Crime and Punishment during the Victorian era and how this became a significant part of history that has impacted our lives today.



Science

This term our main focus will be looking at animals and plants in their habitats. We will look specifically at the life cycles of plants, understanding the important parts of flowering plants and finally investigating reproduction of plants. We will also look at life cycles of amphibians and animals and how we can classify these. Throughout the term we will be developing our skills of investigation and looking at how to plan, prepare and carry out these fairly.



Computing

In Computing, we will be learning skills in word processing and coding. In word processing, we will be learning all the different tools within Microsoft Word and how to present learning. Throughout the units of work, we will be able to explain what coding is and how to create a program with objects that repeat actions. We will understand what a variable is in programming and explore both number and string variables. Finally, we will move through the design, code, execute, refine process to creatively design our own program. Throughout all aspects of computing this term, we will use a wide variety of software packages to support our research and develop our understanding of how to keep ourselves safe online.



French

To begin the term, we will be recapping on our previous learning in French and specifically moving on to develop our French phonics learning. Also, we will be learning about some common animals and pets. We will be able to tell somebody if we have or do not have a pet, ask somebody if they have a pet and tell somebody what their pet is called. At the end of the unit, the aim will be to have a conversation linked to ourselves, the weather, food and drink and animals and pets – all the units covered this year!



Physical

In Term 1, Year 5 pupils will develop their skills in football, netball and quickstick hockey, focusing on the rules, key concepts and principles of invasion games. They will build teamwork, communication and decision-making skills while applying simple attacking and defending tactics. In Term 2, Year 5 pupils will continue to develop their football and hockey skills, applying them confidently in team games and improving their tactical awareness. They will also explore abstract angles in gymnastics, creating and performing sequences with increasing control, balance and precision. **P.E. days this term: Monday and Wednesday. The children need to ensure that they wear the appropriate P.E. kit on these specific days (see school updated policy for expected kit).**

Religious Education (RE)

This term in RE the question we will look to answer is: **What do people do to express their beliefs through worship and caring for others? How do people use their senses in worship?**

In this unit, children will explore how people show their beliefs through both individual and collective worship, and through caring for others. They will learn how the senses—such as sight, sound and smell—contribute to religious experience, and how objects, symbols, music, art and words help deepen worship. Pupils will discover what prayer and meditation mean in different Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions, and how emotions, rituals and service to others express faith. They will also identify practical ways religious communities show care, compassion and responsibility toward those around them.



Personal Social Health Education (PSHE)

Our theme for the first half will be 'Being Me in My World'. This topic will allow the children to identify their goals, planning for the forthcoming year ahead. They will also discuss what it is to be a good citizen, rights and responsibilities and how behaviours affect groups. In the second half of the term, the theme will be about 'Celebrating Differences'. This theme will provide the children with opportunities to discuss cultural differences and how they can cause conflict. We will spend a considerable time looking at our own mental health and happiness discussing topics such as bullying and racism. Throughout both topics, we will develop our ability to share, understand, and respect our own feelings and those of others including developing of mindfulness and relaxation.

Art and DT

Our art and design technology will again be linked to our topic of The Victorians. The children will start by investigating the artwork of William Morris. We will start by looking at how Morris uses pattern, colour and line in his paintings, and we will then use these to create our own patterns in the style of William Morris. Once we have designed our patterns, we will create some of our own Victorian wallpaper. After half term, we will move on to researching and learning about Victorian houses and in particular, Victorian dolls houses. We will then be challenged to design and make a room for our class dolls house.



Music

As part of music, we will be using Sing Up which is a school music program of study. Here we will be learning about a type of song called a sea shanty. As well as having opportunities to find out about the context, history and purpose of sea shanties we will be using this as inspiration to create rhythm games and class arrangements. The second unit we will explore Gospel music using *Why We Sing* by Kirk Franklin as a starting point. They will listen carefully to different Gospel performances, use musical vocabulary to discuss what they hear, and develop their own expressive singing and performance skills. Throughout both units we will be singing, performing, using our voices, looking at improvising and composing as well as learning technical musical terms.



Homework

Homework this term will be recorded in homework diaries and available on TEAMS. It will be set on a **Thursday** to be handed in on the following **Tuesday**. Each week the children will have an English and Maths task that **MUST** be complete with potentially another area linked to our topic which could be completed. Reading **MUST** be continued as part of our weekly homework routine. Please ensure homework diaries and reading is signed on a weekly basis.