

The curriculum in year six

English

The overarching aim for English at St Adrian's is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. Our curriculum for English aims to ensure that all children:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Where possible, our aims for English are achieved by making connections with other curriculum areas and providing children with purposeful contexts in which to extend their learning.

Maths

In year 6, children continue learning in maths in the following areas: counting and understanding numbers, calculating, fractions including decimals and percentages, measurement, geometry and statistics.

By the end of year 6, children will structure their own investigations and solve a wide variety of increasingly complex problems. They will independently develop their own lines of enquiry and be expected to prove their solutions in a variety of ways including algebra, negative proof (use a counter example to prove the rule) and be able to communicate their results using accurate mathematical language. Children will demonstrate secure knowledge and confidence to talk in depth about mathematical concepts and explain their solutions, decisions and reasoning.

Religious Education

Throughout the school, we follow the 'Come and See' scheme of work, which covers an extensive range of theological studies. As well as learning through weekly RE sessions, this thematic approach enables RE to be taught through other subject areas, thereby providing the children with opportunities to make connections.

The themes for year six are loving, belonging, expectations, sources, unity, death and new life, witnessing, healing and common good. In addition, children in year six also learn about Judaism and one other of the major world religions.

Science

Our science curriculum in year 6 is taught through five themes.

In *animals including humans*, children explore life processes that are internal to the body, such as the circulatory system, parts of the digestive system and how they transport fluids around the body. The impact of lifestyle on bodies, particularly of humans, is also considered. Scientists are continually finding out what is good and bad for us, and their ideas do change as more research is carried out.

Through *living things and their habitats*, children will explore the five kingdoms of living things. They will learn to describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals and give reasons for these classifications.

In *evolution and inheritance*, children will look at how living things produce offspring that are similar in appearance, but identical to themselves, whether they are plants or animals. They will also consider how animals change over time as they adapt to their surroundings and this leads to longer term changes.

Through *light*, children will be introduced to the concept of light travelling in straight lines. It starts by looking at beams of light and how light travels to enable children to understand how we see things. This understanding is then applied to the production of shadows and starts to look at how light is reflected. The topic then takes the learning into the realm of coloured light and rainbows, using scientific skills to raise and answer questions.

Our final science theme, *electricity*, provides children with the opportunity to build on existing knowledge whilst understanding the scientific use of symbols for components in a circuit, as well as considering the effect in more detail of changing components in a circuit.

Computing

Our learning in computing teaches children to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation. Children learn to analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve problems.

In learning about e-safety we teach children to be responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

In year six, children's learning is developed through six projects: making a text based adventure game, Mastering algorithms for searching, sorting and mathematics, creating a short television advert, Exploring computer networks including the internet, using media and mapping to document a trip and creating a year book or magazine.

History

Children's knowledge and understanding of history continues to develop in year six by learning about the Viking struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor. Year 6 learn about British history of the Victorians and their way of living in comparison to now.

Geography

In year six, children continue to develop their geographical knowledge and skills through the study of the human and physical geography of a region within South America. This learning, which links with our English and art curriculum, focuses on Brazil. Children will explore different aspects of Brazilian life in comparison to their own and comment on how standards of living have improved. They will then go on to study coastal erosion and the effects this has on a country.

Design technology

Children continue to work through the design and make process, developing their technical knowledge and skills in year six to work with a range of materials. Children combine the knowledge gained of light and electricity to make circuits. They also learn to make a healthy tasting menu and design and make their own toy.

Art

Our art curriculum in year six teaches children to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture. Children learn to use sketch books to record their observations and to use them to review and revisit ideas.

In year six, we explore the themes of Brazilian art, focussing on the artist Romero Britto. Children learn about Indian paisley patterns and how to present them in different forms.

PE

Our PE curriculum in year six is taught both by the class teacher and by our PE coaches.

Over the course of the year, children will be developing their skills in tennis, basketball, gymnastics, dance, tag-rugby, rounders and cricket.