



CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

CLASS 4**AUTUMN TERM 2024****TOPIC TITLE: CHURCHILL'S SECRET ARMY****TEACHER: MRS SUCKSMITH****TEACHING ASSISTANT: MISS BROWN /
MRS WEEDS****UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE:**

In Class 4 this term, our English will be influenced by our topic, 'Churchill's Secret Army' and World War II. We will be using the text, 'The Lion and the Unicorn' by Shirley Hughes initially to inspire setting and character descriptions, before writing a diary entry in character and, finally, a short story using cohesive devices. The short film, 'The Piano' will provide the inspiration for flashback and recount writing as well as a time-altered narrative. After learning about the Blitz, pupils will write poetry on this theme.

After the half-term break, we will be learning more about local veterans and using their lives and wartime stories to write biographies. Pupils will also research the experiences of evacuees – both of British children and of those arriving in Britain via Kindertransport. They will use their learning as the stimulus for letter/diary writing as well as persuasive writing. Finally, as we reach the end of our topic, pupils will create a non-chronological report to present what they have learnt about 'Churchill's Secret Army' and the important role that Colshill played in WWII.

We shall supplement our writing curriculum with extracts from a variety of books that contain a wartime setting. Our main text will be 'I Spy – A Bletchley Park mystery' by Rhian Tracey.

MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING:

Our Autumn Term topics in both Years 5 and 6 are:

- Number and Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING:

- **Forces** What are forces? What is friction? What is air resistance? What is water resistance? How does gravity work? What are mechanisms and how do they work?
- **Properties of materials** How do we insulate materials? What makes a bulb shine brighter? We will design, plan and carry out investigations to test how materials dissolve, how to separate mixtures and which changes are reversible and irreversible.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

- In Term 1, we will be learning more about the mosque and the five pillars of Islam. Our big question is *'How far does the mosque contribute to the Muslim concept of Ummah?'*
- In Term 2, our learning will be based on the big question 'What kind of King is Jesus?'

THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING:

Your child will receive regular homework, which will be given on a Thursday and is due in the following Wednesday. Please ensure that you support your child in completing the tasks that have been set:

Maths – relating to learning in class that week (weekly)

English task – this could be a spelling consolidation activity, a piece designed to use and apply grammar skills taught that week or a creative piece that could be linked to another area of the curriculum

Additionally, please continue to support your child with their times tables by listening to times table rhymes and songs, as well as encouraging them to log in to and play TTRS regularly.

HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL & SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING:

- Pupils will be learning about the Second World War, both generally and through the lens of a local area study. They will learn about some of the causes of the war, the experiences of people at that time and what the Holocaust was. They will also find out more about the significance of their local area in the war, notably Churchill's Secret Army and the role of Coleshill.

UNDERSTANDING THE ARTS:

- We will be learning about the artists Kandinsky and Rothko before trying to emulate their techniques and style.

UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & WELLBEING:

- Our PSHE units are: 'Me and my relationships' and 'Valuing difference'.

Encouraging and fostering a love of reading is also so important for young people. I read to them daily at school and encourage them to do so at home themselves. They have a Reading Journal which I will check fortnightly. It contains a range of fun activities that are designed to get them thinking about the texts that they are reading.

VISITS AND TRIPS:

Swimming (every Tuesday for the first 10 weeks of term)
Please ensure that your child has a full kit.

Yenworthy Lodge Residential (23rd-27th September)
Coleshill Estate Trip (Thursday 24th October)

RESOURCES WE NEED:

It would be very helpful to have a set of old shirts that children can use to protect their uniform when painting. If you have any spare, please do consider donating them.

AND ESSENTIAL . . .

- A reading book
- water bottle should be in school daily.
- PE kit must be in school on a Friday.

Please ensure that children have an appropriate snack for breaktime (fresh fruit – not fruit winders – fresh vegetables and breadsticks are ideal)

We are always happy to give help and advice, so please do not hesitate to contact us.