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Cleves Cross Primary and
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Ferryhill
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DL17 8QY



Year 6 - Spring 1 2022

UNCRC Article 29 Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.



Dear Parents,
Happy New Year and welcome back! This term is always a busy one with plenty to fit in and we are sure many of the children will be looking forward to our upcoming trip to Winmarleigh in February.

For the whole of the spring term, we will be studying the Victorians with a particular emphasis on the development of the railways and linking this to our local area too. This half term, we will link this Theme to the following:

What will we be getting up to this half term?

In **English** this half term, we will be continuing with our novel 'Waiting for Anya', before moving onto another text 'Street child' by Berlie Doherty. This story is about an orphan boy in Victorian times and his fight for survival. This fits in nicely with our theme for this term. It allows us to get plenty of writing opportunities from it, as well as looking at the author's use of grammar and punctuation.

Maths - We will be covering a wide range of skills in maths throughout the half term. For one of the Y6 groups there will be a greater focus on fractions whereas the other group will focus on formal methods of long multiplication and long division as well as looking at some key aspects of geometry.

Children can practise their maths skills in a variety of different ways and using the internet, on sites such as 'speed challenge', 'maths is fun', 'conquermaths' and 'TTRockstars'.

Science - Physics: Electricity. We will begin with revision of simple circuits and then lots of hands on experience with symbols, diagrams and incomplete circuits. We will carry out enquiries about the length of wire in a circuit and the use of cells. Also, we will compare series & parallel circuits - and then face some challenges!

RE - How and why do people care about the environment? We will increase our general awareness of the global world in which we live and learn about the impact of religion on individuals and communities, both locally, nationally and internationally. This unit will also link into our school environmental work.

Art - We will look closely at the work of Victorian designer William Morris. After exploring and discussing some of his existing work, we will be inspired to create printing blocks using relief and impress methods. We will create repeated patterns with two colour overlays and then evaluate our own and other's artwork.

History - Our topic focusses heavily on the history curriculum. We will consider which great inventors and inventions were around in Victorian Britain with a particular focus on the railways. Our enquiry question is 'How did the first railways impact life in Britain?'





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Computing - Children will be using and applying a deeper understanding of coding by exploring Microbits and using these alongside the laptops. When exploring algorithms, children will even try to create their own coding to create a working pedometer.

PSHCE - How can we keep healthy as we grow and develop? There are many elements that we will cover when considering this question including: understanding the importance of both physical and mental health; finding a balance between online and offline time and considering the effects of illegal drugs in society.

Music - All the learning is focused around the song 'You've Got a Friend' - a song all about friendship by Carol King. As well as learning the song itself, we will also get the opportunity to explore Carol King as an artist and look at her major achievements.

P.E. - Our PE sessions are on a Thursday afternoon. The children require a t-shirt, shorts and trainers. We will also be taking advantage of the outdoor areas when the weather allows so please also send in tracksuit bottoms or leggings. PE kit should be brought into school on a Monday and returned home on a Friday. To avoid any accidents, please remove earrings on PE days.

In PE this half term, we will be looking at the game of Basketball in more detail and learning some skills. We will then be able to apply these improved skills to a number of different invasion games.

Thank you for your support with helping your child to complete their homework. Homework will generally be given out on a Friday to be returned to school for the following Tuesday. Children should also continue to read regularly, either their school or home reading books, or online using 'Fictionexpress' where there are a range of texts for children to read.

Maths homework will be set through conquer maths. Conquer maths is a website that children can use to carry out their own learning as well as completing set tasks. Children can continue to use Times Table Rockstars to help build their speed and agility. Children can also use other websites to help with basic number facts such as 'Hit the button' and Speed Challenge. English homework will be a range of reading/grammar and spelling activities and on occasions, those linked to the topic we are studying. Some of this homework may be set via Teams so it is vital that your child has access to this online platform.

Study classes will also begin this half term and further information has already been given to those children who need to attend. It is vitally important to attend these sessions and if there are any problems with this, please contact us at school to discuss.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please do not hesitate to contact us at school or via the class email - y6cleves@cclt.education.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Hornsby, Mr Blood and Mrs McAuley

