

Normanby Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2

Memorable Experience – Victorian Day / Weald and Downland

This half-term, pupils will step back in time to discover what life was like during the Victorian era. Whether through a Victorian Day in school or a trip to Weald and Downland, they will experience first-hand the challenges and routines of Victorian children, helping to bring our history unit to life.

English – *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty

Our core text this half-term is *Street Child*, a powerful classic that tells the story of Jim Jarvis, a boy living in poverty in Victorian London. This novel helps children explore the realities of life for many during the 19th century, while also developing empathy and critical thinking. Writing outcomes will include diary entries, letters, descriptive writing, and persuasive pieces linked to social reform. In grammar, we will focus on cohesion, complex sentence structures, and developing an ambitious vocabulary. Spelling lessons will continue to reinforce statutory Year 5/6 words, while guided reading will encourage deeper comprehension and discussion of themes such as poverty, resilience, and justice.

Oracy – Remembrance Day and Christingle

Children will prepare and present spoken reflections as part of our Remembrance Day commemorations and Christingle service. This provides an opportunity to develop skills in performance, confidence, and clarity, while learning to adapt tone and pace for different audiences.

Mathematics – Fractions

This half-term's focus is fractions. Pupils will explore equivalent fractions, improper fractions, and mixed numbers, building their fluency in converting between them. They will learn to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, applying these skills to real-life problem-solving contexts. Reasoning and explaining methods clearly will be a strong focus, ensuring deep understanding of this important topic.

Science – Electricity

In science, we turn to electricity. Pupils will learn how circuits work, exploring components such as bulbs, buzzers, switches, and motors. They will investigate the effect of changing variables, such as the number of batteries or components in a circuit. Alongside this, they will learn about electrical safety and the importance of sustainable energy choices for the future.

History – Victorians (Post-1066 Britain)

Our history unit this half-term focuses on the Victorians. Pupils will explore how Britain changed during Queen Victoria's reign, looking at industrialisation, social class, and the lives of children during this period. They will use sources such as photographs, diaries, and reports to investigate what life was really like, and will reflect on how reforms such as education and housing transformed society.

Geography – N/A

There is no separate geography unit this half-term, though geographical skills and knowledge will be linked through our study of Victorian Britain.

Design Technology – Electrical Systems: Alternative Energy

In DT, pupils will design and build electrical systems with a focus on alternative energy sources. They will learn how renewable power can be harnessed and explore the role of technology in creating

more sustainable solutions. This links directly to their science learning on electricity, giving them opportunities to apply knowledge in a creative and practical way.

Art – Architecture and the Shoreditch Sketcher

This term in art, pupils will study architectural drawing and design. They will take inspiration from the Shoreditch Sketcher, exploring line, perspective, and composition in urban sketches. Building on this, they will study Victorian architecture, analysing the distinctive features of the period. Pupils will then create their own architectural drawings and mixed media pieces, developing both observational and creative skills.

Computing – Game Creator

In computing, pupils will complete the Purple Mash *Game Creator* unit. They will design, code, and test their own computer games, focusing on storyboards, characters, and backgrounds. Debugging and user testing will form an important part of the process, encouraging logical thinking and creativity.

Music – Enjoying Musical Styles

In music, pupils will explore a range of musical styles, listening to and performing pieces from different traditions. They will identify features such as rhythm, melody, and instrumentation, and develop performance skills through both singing and playing. This broad approach helps build musical appreciation and confidence.

PSHE – Celebrating Difference

Through the Jigsaw unit *Celebrating Difference*, pupils will learn to value diversity and challenge prejudice. Topics will include understanding stereotypes, exploring cultural differences, and recognising the impact of bullying. Pupils will reflect on their own identity while learning how to show respect and empathy towards others.

RE – Was Jesus the Messiah? (Incarnation)

In RE, pupils will explore the Christian belief that Jesus was the Messiah. They will study biblical texts, consider how this belief shapes Christian traditions, and reflect on its significance in the lead-up to Christmas.

MFL – What Do I Look Like?

In Spanish, the topic *What Do I Look Like?* will introduce vocabulary to describe physical appearance and clothing. Pupils will practise using adjectives accurately, building sentences to describe themselves and others. Role-play, songs, and games will reinforce vocabulary in a fun and memorable way.

PE – Netball and Gymnastics

In PE, pupils will continue developing their skills in invasion games through netball, focusing on passing, movement, and shooting. In gymnastics, they will work on balance, coordination, and creating sequences, performing routines that combine floor and apparatus work.