

Year 6 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the second half term: World at War: Wars, Past and Present

This covers the second half of the autumn term (12th October – 27th November, with half term from 26th–30th October, and an INSET day on Monday 2nd November when school is closed to children). During this time, Year 6 will be exploring **World at War: Wars, Past and Present** — exploring why wars happen, the causes and impact of the First and Second World Wars, the part the North East played in the war effort, and the people who have worked for peace. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Awareness**.

Our CARE Curriculum

World at War is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 6, 'Awareness' means understanding past and present conflicts, and how communities respond to and recover from them.

Our School Value: RESILIENT

We'll start by reading Little People, BIG DREAMS: Helen Keller as a class. Helen overcame being both deaf and blind to become a celebrated author and campaigner for peace and the rights of others. This links to our school value of being RESILIENT, and to this unit's theme: the resilience shown by those who lived through war — and by those who, like Helen, worked tirelessly for peace.

History and Science this half term

We're learning about the World Wars and conflict today, and about how living things are classified:

- Why wars happen, and the causes and lasting impact of the First and Second World Wars — including the Birtley Belgians, a local link
- Life on the Home Front — evacuation, Dig for Victory and propaganda — and the contribution of North East women in shipbuilding and factories
- Conflicts around the world today, the role of the United Nations, and people who have worked for peace
- Classifying living things — vertebrates and invertebrates, flowering and non-flowering plants, micro-organisms, and the work of Carl Linnaeus

At home, you could ask older relatives what they know about family members' lives during the Second World War, or visit a local war memorial together around Remembrance Day.

Maths this half term

We're building on our calculation skills, then moving on to fractions and measures:

- Four Operations — multiplying and dividing, including long division
- Fractions — simplifying, comparing and calculating with fractions
- Converting Units — converting between units of length, mass and capacity

At home, you could practise fractions in the kitchen — halving or doubling a recipe is great practice!

English this half term

Reading and writing inspired by the legend of Beowulf, including writing in role.

Music this half term

Guitar with Mr Dunn (Gateshead Music Service) — chord transitions, song structures, a blues shuffle beat, and performing to an audience.

RE this half term

Pilgrimage — why are people still drawn to ancient places? Investigating Iona, the River Ganges and the Kumbh Mela, and Glastonbury, and why people still travel to them today.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "How and why do you think a war is started?"
- Ask: "What was life like for children who were evacuated?"
- Ask: "Is war ever right?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Helen Keller resilient?"
- Try together: visit a local war memorial and find out about the people named on it.

Words you might hear at home

civil war, alliance, allies, evacuation, propaganda, injustice, solidarity, classify, vertebrate, invertebrate, micro-organism

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE focuses on understanding the law and keeping ourselves safe: why carrying any kind of weapon is against the law, what the law says about drugs, the health risks of vaping and smoking, why we should never accept food or drink from strangers or trick anyone into consuming something, how our personal data is shared online, and why films, games and apps have age restrictions. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 6. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Enrichment

- A visit to the North East Field of Remembrance — Wednesday 4th November
- A display of the children's Remembrance Day textile banners

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the second half of the autumn term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Resilient