

## Year 6 Autumn Term

### The Victorian Era and World War Two

#### What were we fighting for?



**As readers**, we will be reading extracts from a variety of texts set during the Victorian era, the American civil rights movement and World War Two, including the novel *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl, the biography *The Extraordinary Life of Rosa Parks* by Sheila Kanani and Nan Lawson and the historical novel *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll.



**As writers**, we will be using our focus texts to inspire our Year 6 pupils to produce high-quality writing for different purposes and of a variety of genres. We will create our own biographies of Black History Hero Rosa Parks and reflect on how she lived our school values of equality, aspiration and responsibility. We will be reading Joseph Coelho's poetry collection *Overheard in a Tower Block* and write our own poetry in response. After half term, we will focus on creating a range of writing based on the Second World War, including a non-chronological report about the Blitz and a letter from the perspective of a character of Emma Carroll's novel. The autumn term will also see Year 6 concentrating on using basic punctuation accurately and including additional information through the use of brackets, dashes and commas (parenthesis). In handwriting, we will be revising forming the lowercase letters correctly and ensure that we consistently use the correct handwriting joins.

As part of our spelling lessons, we will be revising the spelling rules that we learnt in Year 3 and 4, including prefixes, suffixes and homophones.

**As mathematicians**, we will be revising equivalent fractions before moving on to simplifying fractions and exploring fraction-decimal-percentage equivalents as well as calculating percentages of a quantity. We will then be calculating and solving problems using known structures, representing equations in part-whole models and calculating the value of missing parts. Subsequently, we will explore the place value of numbers up to ten million, round large numbers to the nearest power of 10 and practice adding and subtracting 7-digit numbers.

We will also regularly be practising our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills and revising the use of mental and formal written methods to solve calculations and word problems. Improving fluency and speed in the recall of multiplication and corresponding division facts is a vital step to success in these explorations.

**As scientists**, we will be learning about electricity by creating a range of different circuits. We will complete scientific experiments to look at how components in a circuit function when they are changed or moved, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the use of switches, as well as investigating the voltage of cells. After half term, we shall be investigating how light appears to travel in straight lines and use this to explain how we see objects as they reflect light into our eyes and explain the shape of shadows in relation to the original object.

**As historians**, we start the autumn term by exploring Great Britain under the reign of Queen Victoria and how Great Britain expanded its Empire. In doing so, we will examine the social, political and technological changes in Great Britain and how they impacted on its population, both within the United Kingdom and in the British colonies. After the half-term break, we will investigate the start and the initial stages of the Second World War.

**As geographers** we shall be looking at migration and the range of reasons why people move. We will learn that some migrations are voluntary whilst others are forced by looking at two case studies.

**As artists**, we will be exploring the idea that drawing as a two-dimensional activity can be used to transform surfaces which can then be manipulated into a three-dimension object, whilst also exploring mark making, tone, colour and shape.

**As designers**, after half term, we will be choosing appropriate materials to create miniature Anderson shelters, applying our understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex structures. We will then be evaluating our finished products and consider the views of others to improve our work.

**As musicians**, we will be appraising the work of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and further developing the skills of improvisation and composition. We shall then create a group composition which features changes in dynamics, texture and pitch.

**As theologians**, we will be reflecting on why some people believe in God and what God means to them and discuss the difference between theists, atheists, Humanists and agnostics. After half term, we shall investigate our key question 'What do religions say to us when life gets hard?' focusing on the religions of Christianity and Hinduism.

**As athletes**, we will be going for a course of swimming lessons and in addition building up our general fitness through the beep test.

**As members of our community**, we will be learning about healthy relationships, recognising and managing pressure such as consent in different situations and expressing our opinions and respecting other points of view whilst discussing topical issues.

**As computer scientists**, we will explore how data is transferred over the internet. We will look at how the internet facilitates online communication and collaboration. After half term, we will design and evaluate our own websites using Google Sites.

### Enrichment

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 – "Black Victorians" workshop at The National Archives, Kew

Also in Autumn 2: "London during the Blitz" workshop at the National Army Museum in Chelsea (date tbc)

### School Value Focus



**Aspiration** – We are aspirational about learning, the vocabulary we use and in our goal setting in this, our final year at Darell Primary.