

Year 6
Curriculum Letter
Spring Term 1 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Thank you for all the cards, gifts and Christmas messages: they were very much appreciated! This overview should help you to understand the areas covered in each subject and assist you to support your child with their learning. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at year6@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk or write a message in your child's planner. Our class page is also updated weekly with what the pupils have been doing for that week - please do take a look!

Best wishes for 2026,

Mr van der Westhuyzen and Mrs Chapman

English	<p>Week 1-2: Persuasive Writing: We will identify the features of persuasive writing and the pupils will learn to use modal verbs, rhetorical questions, formal tone as well as the correct format for writing a persuasive letter. We will write to Mr Barron and use a real-life context as the basis for our letters.</p> <p>Week 3-6: Independent writing project: In the first few weeks of this term, the pupils will have opportunity to complete a wide range of open-ended tasks which will require them to write in several different genres and styles. Pupils will be given time to write for a sustained period every day. Personal projects (where pupils have a greater element of choice) are an important part of the writing curriculum because it is here, through exercising their own choice of subject, purpose and audience, that pupils have genuine autonomy and come to understand the true function of writing as an empowering and pleasurable activity which they can use now and in the future.</p> <p>Handwriting - This will be taught daily as well as being practised throughout the curriculum.</p> <p>Spelling - This will be taught daily. The pupils will complete a dictation each week using words based on the spelling pattern we have been learning.</p> <p>WeRead: The pupils will have a 'WeRead' session every day. Three of these sessions will be whole class guided reading lessons. In these sessions, we will be continuing to read 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross McKenzie. The two remaining sessions each week will focus on developing comprehension skills.</p> <p>Once upon a time: At the end of each day, we read a high quality text to the pupils for 15 minutes. These sessions promote and develop a love of reading as pupils are exposed to books and genres which they might not naturally choose themselves. This half-term, we will be continuing to read 'You are awesome' by Matthew Syed. We will then move on to reading 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Week 1 : Ratio: understanding how ratio relates to fractions.</p> <p>Week 2 : Scaling (drawing and scale factors) and proportion.</p> <p>Week 3 : Using simple formulae - first steps in algebra (using one variable)</p> <p>Week 4 : Solving algebra problems involving two variables</p> <p>Week 5 : Statistics: the mean, mode, range and line graphs.</p> <p>Week 6 : Area, perimeter and volume.</p> <p>Take 5: Every afternoon, the pupils will receive a fun, fast-paced session focussing on developing their mathematical fluency. These sessions help the pupils to recall and revisit what they have been learning in their morning maths lessons.</p>
Science	<p>Classification: The pupils will become experts in the use of classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things! They will learn about the 7 characteristics of a living thing; sort living things in a number of ways; make observational drawings and investigate harmful and helpful micro-organisms.</p>
Computing	<p>Programming - Variables in Games: This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, pupils find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then they will use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard. Pupils will follow the Use-Modify-Create model and will experiment with variables in an existing project. Finally, pupils will apply their knowledge of variables and design to improve their own games in Scratch.</p>
P.S.H.C.E.	<p>Dreams and Goals: In this unit the pupils will set personal learning goals. They will ensure that these are challenging yet realistic. They will think about the learning steps that they need to take to reach their goal and how to motivate themselves to work towards these. The pupils will also think more widely about their dreams for the world and will explore how they can make the world a better place by working with others.</p>
French	<p>In my French house: In this unit the pupils will be learning to understand and describe the French words for different types of houses and their rooms. They will be asking and answering questions using learnt vocabulary about their houses as well as writing a description about their own houses.</p>
RE	<p>Sikh worship and community : In this unit the pupils will learn about how Sikhs worship at home and at the gurdwara. They will gain insights into this major world religion and will focus particularly on how aspects of Sikhism both form and contribute to the community.</p>

History	The Maya Civilisation: This half term, pupils will be learning about different aspects of the Maya civilisation of Central America. Throughout the unit, pupils will learn to be able to identify, describe and explain the purpose of the different religious and ceremonial buildings that existed in Maya cities through a detailed case study of one Maya city - Chichen Itza. They will be introduced to the great achievements of Maya society, including how they used hieroglyphs to communicate in 'picture writing', developed a sophisticated numerical system to calculate and solve complex problems and how they developed an expert awareness and understanding of the make-up and movement of the constellations of the night sky.
Art	Painting and mixed media: This half term, the pupils will be developing their painting and mixed media skills. They will be studying different works of art and exploring a selection of paintings through art appreciation activities. The pupils will be using their sketchbooks to document their ideas as well as planning for a final piece.
PE	Dance: Pupils will focus on developing an idea or theme into dance choreography. They will work in pairs and groups using different choreographing tools to create dances. For example: formation, timing and dynamics. Pupils will have opportunities to choreograph, perform and provide feedback on dance. They will think about how to use movement to convey ideas, emotions, feelings and characters. Pupil will also have the opportunity to lead others through short warm ups. Please make sure your child has the correct kit for PE; this includes a plain blue/black jumper, plain blue/black trousers or shorts and a white t-shirt. The pupils have PE lessons on a Friday.
Homework	Maths: Tasks will be set on a Friday. Pupils will be completing consolidation work, which they have covered in class. Please ensure that you sign and/or write a comment in your child's planner by the following Wednesday. These will be checked by staff in school on Wednesday afternoons so that any misconceptions can be addressed. Please ensure your child completes at least 25 minutes on TT Rockstars each week. Reading : Please ensure that your child reads at least 5 times each week: each pupil is required to read 5 times in order to be eligible for the Golden Ticket draw in which they can win a Wonka bar! It is important that a range of texts are read at home. Whilst reading with your child, I would encourage you to draw attention to: punctuation, grammar, sentence structures, vocabulary choices and the organisation of writing (i.e. paragraphing and layout).
Dates	Thursday 22 nd January - Doodlebug Workshop Monday 9 th February- Friday 13 th February - E-Safety Week Friday 13 th February- End of half-term (3:15pm finish) Advance notice: Wednesday 25 th February - Year 6 Class Assembly