

DEFYING GRAVITY: What Makes Us Who We Are?

The Summer Term has crept up and is now upon us! We'd like to extend a warm welcome back to all the Year 6s and their families in their final term. Looking back over the last year, it has been wonderful to watch each and every member of the class grow in all areas of learning and life...and there are many more opportunities for this in the Summer term! **'The Year to Create!'** continues, and now more than ever, we will be **dreaming, asking, aspiring, achieving and believing** as we ready ourselves for Secondary School.

Within our theme of creating, we will focus our learning this term on **'Defying Gravity: What Makes Us Who We Are?'** Our topic title is inspired by this year's **Summer Musical: 'Wicked!'** Alongside this, pupils will explore and reflect on ways those before us defied the odds and shaped the world around them. We intend on becoming confident and comfortable enough in ourselves to dream big and make our mark, just as the heroes in our musical do!

RE will follow the Come and See topics of:

Witness: in which we will explore what it means to be a witness in all walks of life, particularly in 'witnessing' the Good News received by Christians.

Healing: in which pupils will explore Christians responsibility to care for others, with a particular focus on the Anointing of the Sick.

Common Good: where pupils will learn more about the Christian responsibility to work for the good of others as well as the environment around them.

In **English**, we will continue to become accomplished writers, experimenting with a range of texts, punctuation and grammar. Inspiration will come from the themes that run through our musical: prejudice, rights and responsibilities and much more. Our class read focusing on snippets from both 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Wicked' novels.

Maths will focus on revising and deepening our understanding of concepts. We will especially harness the fluency of our written and mental calculations, solving rich, open problems and mathematical reasoning.

KEY DATES

26th April, 6.30pm: Dance Showcase, The Becket School

28th April, 9am: Whole School Mass

9th-13th May: KS2 National Assessment Week

18th May, 1.30pm: KS2 Sports Day

8th June: Yr 5 and 6 Visit to London

9th June: First Holy Communion Whole School Mass

16th June, 10.30am: Swimming Gala

30th May—3rd June: May Half-Term

1st July: Inset Day

4th-5th July: Secondary School Transition Days

7th and 8th July, 7pm: Summer Musical Performances

12th July: Leavers' Mass and Disco

15th July: Pupil Reports; 1.30pm Oscars

18th July: End of Year Mass

22nd July: Last Day of Term



GUN-POWDER Plot:

A Brief Account of that bloody and fatal Design laid against the King, his Lords, and Commons in Parliament, and of a Happy Deliverance by Divine Power. To the True and just Merit of the Cause. LONDON: Printed and Sold by J. Sturges, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1688.



The Wicked Witch of the West, the most powerful of all witches, is the main antagonist of the musical. She is a powerful and cunning witch who is determined to destroy the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion, and to take the Emerald City for herself.

WICKED

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ



Science will explore forces, gravity in particular, linking to the theme of 'defying gravity', whilst a look at useful and harmful microorganisms in biology will serve to help our DT intentions of creating a top-class, pre-theatre menu.

Computing will provide us with the opportunity to create documents using Microsoft Office: Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel and Word, as well as code and programme using Kodu, all within the theme of 'Wicked'.

Art and **DT** will continue this theme, with pupils exploring animal art, linking to the animal rights theme that runs throughout the musical. As mentioned above, we hope to investigate restaurant pre-theatre menus, planning and creating our own to link to our own 'theatre' performance!

In **PE**, we are excited to continue working BRW's dance coach to continue to develop our confidence and fluency in dance, focusing this term on putting on a star performance. We will also revisit Athletic skills in preparation for Sports Day. We hope to also complete our **Forest Schools** programme this term too!



History and Geography will focus on the 'Then' and 'Now' of regions linked to the musical: the human and physical geography of Kansas, compared to Westminster, London (an area we intend on visiting later in the term! See overleaf for more details). Tornadoes and the River Thames will feature highly. Further investigations of the Westminster area will take us to the Stuart time period, on the trail of key events in British history such as the Gunpowder Plot.

PSHE This term the children will be take part in 'Education in Personal Relationships and Sex Education'. The elements of our EPR program including Sex Education were outlined at the Year 6 meeting in the Autumn Term. If you would like to review the materials and/or the DVD please contact the office to arrange an appointment.

National Assessments For important information about the new national assessments, please see the attached letter.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND VISITORS

To prepare for the musical and complement our topic this term, we hope to visit our capital, London. On June 8th, as part of an awe-inspiring adventure that will inspire our own creative performance, we plan to watch 'Wicked' the musical in the Westminster area of London, having investigated the geography and history of this area and what makes it what it is today. We know this visit will not only enrich and inspire, but it will create lasting memories for the Year 6s in their final term at BRW. Finally, we hope to welcome back some scientists to deepen our understanding of microorganisms and gravitational forces. Dates and details to be fully confirmed nearer the time.

How You Can help:

- Ensure your child is wearing **correct uniform** in school. Also, **PE kits** will be needed **every day**. Kits should be appropriate for the season i.e. both outdoor and indoor kits are needed for the winter months. Inhalers must be in school at all times also. Hair should be tied back and jewellery removed.
- Ensure your child is in school in time for registration (8.55am).
- Check **homework diaries** regularly as they are one of the best methods of communication. They are checked once a week on **Mondays**, and must be **signed** by a parent / guardian for this day.
- The children will be set **daily homework** which **MUST** be completed, usually for the next school day. At this point in school, pupils should become more and more independent at homework. In Year 6, this will involve a minimum of a 30 minute tasks every weekday. There is opportunity to come into school early from 8.45am to work on homework, as well as homework clubs twice a week before and after school.
- It is *vitaly* important that the children know their **number facts** (addition and subtraction facts to 100; multiplication and division facts to 12 x 12). Multiplication, division, addition and subtraction facts are the basis of everything else that is learnt in Maths. Children will have weekly number facts to learn and quizzed on them every Monday. Help them to know them as fast as they know their name!
- Unless learning lines and lyrics, children will have a set of **spellings** to learn each week, to be tested every Monday. Please keep checking them on these daily. Writing them down repetitively is effective and excellent preparation for the national assessments.
- **Encourage** your child **to read and enjoy doing so every day**. Questions about the story plot, parts they are enjoying, the types of books they like etc. Record in their diaries the pages they have read and initial this to enable good communication with home and school. This recording is seen as evidence that they have read every day and is treated as homework, being checked every **Monday**.
- Take a look at Year 6s class page and **blog** for more information! brwacademy.com

Finally, your help in this term will be invaluable. We'd like to **thank you** in advance for your resolute support in helping your child reach the full potential throughout their time at BRW, and in their final year especially. We can't wait to see how the Year 6s defy gravity, soar higher than before and end up among the stars as they leave school to move onto greater things.

Miss Lee

