

The Glapton Academy

Year 6 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2



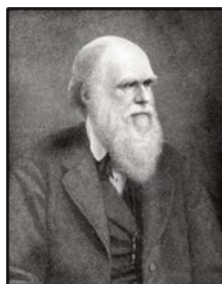
Evolution and Inheritance

Our science topic this half term will be Evolution and Inheritance!

In science, **evolution** refers to how organisms change over time (typically millions of years) as a result of **inherited adaptations** that make it easier to survive, depending on where they live.

Over the half term, we will be thinking about characteristics that are passed down from one generation to the next and how species have adapted to suit their environments.

We will then go on to look at the process of natural selection and how our understanding of the process of evolution has developed over time, thanks to the work of many famous scientists and palaeontologists, including Charles Darwin and Mary Anning.



Book recommendation

Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship.

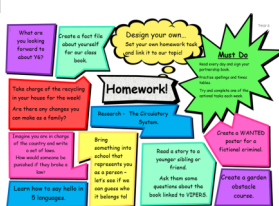


But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves and to find Aya's father – separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria.

With beautiful, captivating writing, wonderfully authentic ballet detail, and an important message championing the rights of refugees, this is classic storytelling – filled with warmth, hope and humanity.

Homework

Year 6 pupils will be set two homework tasks each Friday on Sats Companion. All children have now received their log-in details. These tasks must be completed by the following Friday. Homework given will always be a reconsolidation of learning that has taken place in school.



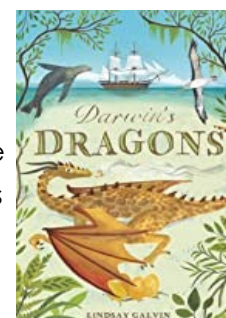
In addition to this, a homework menu will be provided each half term. These tasks will cover a range of skills.

English

In English this half term, we will be working on a range of fiction and non fiction genres, through our study of the novel 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin.

The children will be exposed to a variety of text types throughout the unit, whereby we will be writing our own instructional texts, persuasive leaflets and non-chronological reports. We will be continuing to revisit all concepts of the KS2 English writing curriculum through our daily GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) Workouts, alongside explicitly taught lessons on sentence types, organisational devices and use of colons and hyphens.

In reading we will be working on improving our exam technique, by learning how to get maximum marks when answering comprehension questions. We will specifically be focussing on inference and deduction questions as well as questions related to the author's viewpoint.



Maths

In our maths lessons this term, we will be continuing to practise written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This will include: working with numbers with up to two decimal places, learning how to interpret a remainder as a decimal and fraction and using the order of operations to solve problems. Following this, we will be practising mental calculations and developing our ability to reason from known facts.

We will also begin our fractions unit this half term! We will recap equivalent fractions before learning how to simplify fractions, convert between improper and mixed number fractions and compare and order fractions with different numerators and denominators.



We will also continue with our big push on times-tables, as these form an important basis for many areas of the maths curriculum. Please encourage your child to access TT Rock Stars as often as possible to support them with this.

Maths Vocabulary

Regroup
Exchange
Remainder
Decimal
Fraction
Numerator
Denominator
Equivalent
Simplify
Express
Mixed number
Improper
Highest common factor
Lowest common denominator

Partnership Books

This term we will be continuing with our reading reward system which was launched earlier this year. Each class will become '**Reading Rocketeers**' aiming to get to 'space' (200 reads) by the end of the academic year. Children are encouraged to read at home every day and to make a note in their partnership book every time they read outside of school. After every 20 reads, they will get one step closer to space and will be rewarded with a token which they can 'spend' on prizes and, of course, books!



Spellings

All children will be given spelling words to learn each **Friday**.

These should be practised at home as often as possible and different words with the same spelling pattern will be tested in school the following **Friday**.

PE

Our PE day will be on a **Tuesday** however your child's PE kit must be in school every day as this can change. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit clearly labelled with their name. Earrings must be removed for these days.

PE kit consists of:

Plain white T-shirt
Plain black sweatshirt
Black shorts or joggers
Trainers (outside)

Dates for Your Diary

13th - 17th November: Anti-bullying week
15th November: Whole School Drop-in
17th November: Children in Need/Team Challenge Day
24th November: Thank You Club
12th and 14th December: KS2 Christmas Concert
15th December: KS1 Nativity
19th December: Christmas Jumper/Lunch Day
20th December: Thank You Club and Break up for Christmas holidays.
Children return to school - 8th January 2024

*Miss Shenton and
Mrs Ralph*