



Jubilee

The Big Idea

This summer the nation celebrates our Queen's Platinum Jubilee! As our longest serving monarch, every decade of Elizabeth's 70-year reign weaves a rich historical tapestry, where family life, world events and British values and culture have all moved on at a pace. In this half term's study, we will be learning the fascinating details of the last seventy years through the life of our Queen and the pomp and pageantry of our country's capital. We will understand the importance of community life as we work together towards our day of celebration and the place the arts have in building cultural capital and heritage.

As language specialists...

There are many reading and writing genres that will come to the fore in our Jubilee half term. From biography to historical writing, the cross-curricular opportunities are many. Relevant books, text extracts and poems that develop our theme are plentiful and vary according to each year group's English curriculum. We understand the importance of speaking and listening. We aim to develop focussed vocabulary in our 'Shedwords' assemblies by introducing a rich variety of new language based on scenes of London and royal events. Extended writing opportunities will include non-fiction recounts as we absorb historical London life through Pathe films and current news footage. In a bid to improve our fiction writing, we will be penning new stories based on *The Queen's Hat* and *The Queen and Mr Brown* texts as well as patriotic poetry. There are also many opportunities to apply and rehearse our literary skills as we plan for a Jubilee celebration!

As historians...

We will build on our chronological knowledge by learning about British life from 1953 to present day. This will include creating a biography of the life of the Queen and understanding how historians glean information from historical artefacts and sources. By creating a timeline of English monarchs, our older children will develop an understanding of the historical significance of royal portraits and regalia. Our younger children will use pictures, archive film and objects to learn all about the Queen's childhood. They will compare and order games and toys across the decades and understand how life has changed for a child. As we look at London and the pageantry, architectural development and changing culture of our capital, we will use film from the Pathe archives to see the threads of our history that are still very much alive today.

Across the curriculum

As expressive artists

We will go on a virtual tour of London's National Gallery and learn all about five key paintings and the artists who created them. We will use royal portraits (in particular, those of Hans Holbein) to understand the significance of objects in art. This will enable us to respond intelligently to the commission of Her Majesty's Willow Brook Jubilee Portrait competition.

Building on our architectural studies in the spring term, we will be using observational skills and drawing techniques to recreate and explore key buildings from the London skyline.

As musicians

We will be learning how music rouses patriotic feelings. We will be learning the National Anthem and recognising music used in British ceremony. We will continue to build on our knowledge of the great English composers and also include artists from the past seven decades to help plot our chronology. These will range from early English folk music, the Beatles and the 80's pop culture to Oasis in the 90's!

As computer specialists

We will use our word processing skills to present fact, using MS Word for writing and PowerPoint for presentation. We will also be enhancing our internet research skills to find historical sources and information and learn how to add media to presentations.

As theologians and thinkers

RE lessons will help children to explore and understand the different faiths of Queen and Commonwealth. As we consider democracy and learn more about the process of government and the working of the Houses of Parliament, we will develop whole school discussion and debating skills.

As French speakers

Classes in our Key Stage 2 department will enjoy interacting with familiar books and stories in French. Becoming more confident with simple phrases and written activities will increase both pronunciation and vocabulary-rich knowledge.

As fitness and wellbeing experts

We will continue to build on fitness skills and healthy lifestyles through lessons, competitive games and physical play. A dedicated sports week and outdoor activities during residential experiences will add exciting opportunities to engage in new physical challenges and team building events.

As geographers...

We will be using the knowledge we have gained thus far to further consider the human and physical geography of different parts of the Commonwealth and the Queen's role as Head of State. Starting with the Union Flag (Union Jack) we will see how emblems add to a country's identity as well as increasing our general knowledge.

Our key focus in geography will be London. World renowned architecture and Royal landmarks will help us to know and understand the makeup of a bustling European capital city. This will be compared to similar European cities, including Nottingham, and our younger children will be comparing city living to Keyworth village life. As well as learning about the seven residences of the Queen, the children will learn to recognise the Palace of Westminster (and Big Ben) St. Pauls Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, The Gherkin, Trafalgar Square, St Pancras, The Mall, London's Royal Parks, The National Gallery and the London Underground. It is a fabulous city that is well worth exploring!

As STEM students...

Each year group will continue to study their maths curriculum. There will be opportunities to consolidate prior learning and build on automaticity, as well as engaging in practical problem-solving experiences. London provides plenty of data to investigate and explore – from population statistics to tube timetables, our number skills are bound to improve!

Knowledge of the World and British Citizens

Through assemblies and targeted lessons, Willow Brook children will be immersed in a comprehensive study of the fundamental British Values that underpin citizenship in Great Britain today. These include Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance as well as Individual Liberty. Through our own school rules and expectations, we will understand more about how these principles are implemented and governed and how they apply to Willow Brook's community as much as the nation.

Books that we recommend to support our learning this term

The Queen and our capital feature in many fact and fiction texts... the list is endless. We do, however, recommend the following books. Well-known authors such as Roald Dahl include wonderful accounts of their characters meeting the Queen, and Morris Gleitzman is an accomplished author (if you have never read 'Once', you must!) If you are a Walliams' fan, Gangsta Granny is a good pick, and David Long's *The Buildings that made London* is nothing short of brilliant. (For those who have already met his book 'Survivors' in years 4, 5 and 6, you will know that this is another title that all the family will enjoy and learn from.) If you find any titles that fit the theme and would be a great addition to our school library, please let us know.

