

Year 6 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the first six weeks: Inventors and Innovations

This covers the first six weeks of the autumn term. During this time, Year 6 will be exploring **Inventors and Innovations** — looking at how ideas, inventions and technologies from the past have shaped the way we live and communicate today, with a particular focus on our region's shipbuilding history. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Connected**.

Our CARE Curriculum

Inventors and Innovations is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. As a Connected unit, the focus is on communication, invention and progress — exploring how inventors have solved problems and shared discoveries across history.

Building key skills: Creativity and Commitment

This unit also draws on our school's Competency Units, giving children the chance to explore Creativity and Commitment through the stories of inventors and innovators who have shaped the world — from shipbuilders on the Tyne to modern-day engineers.

History and Computing this half term

We're learning about the North East's shipbuilding history and coding:

- The significance of shipbuilding on the River Tyne, including the Mauretania
- The role of women in shipbuilding during WWI and WWII
- What happened when the shipyards closed, and the impact on the local labour market
- Learning to code using Rodocodo — sequencing, loops, selection, variables and debugging

At home, you could ask your child what they know about the ships that used to be built on the River Tyne.

Science and DT this half term

We're investigating forces, building up to designing a moving vehicle:

- Gravity, and why heavier objects don't always fall faster
- Air resistance, water resistance and friction
- Levers, pulleys and gears
- Designing, building and wiring a moving vehicle with a working electrical circuit

At home, you could test how different surfaces (carpet, tile, grass) affect how far a toy car rolls.

Maths this half term

We're building strong number foundations across two areas:

- Weeks 1–3: Place Value — reading, writing and recognising numbers up to 10,000,000, rounding any number, and working with negative numbers
- Weeks 4–6: Addition and Subtraction — column addition and subtraction, prime numbers to 100, and short and long division

At home, you could challenge your child to round large numbers they come across, like populations or distances.

Music this half term: through Oak National's 'Sing, play, perform: accompanying songs with polyrhythms' unit.

RE this half term: Hindus — how do Hindus see Brahman? Exploring Hindu ideas of the divine through the story of Svetaketu, and looking at deities and mandirs.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "What do you know about the ships built on the River Tyne?"
- Ask: "Why don't heavier objects always fall faster than lighter ones?"
- Ask: "What's the difference between a lever, a pulley and a gear?"
- Ask: "What do you think it takes to be a good inventor?"
- Try together: look for examples of levers, pulleys or gears around your home.

Words you might hear at home

invention, innovation, maritime, pioneer, labour market, significant, consequence, evaluate, collaborate

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers debating respectfully, respecting different relationships, the law around marriage, being an ally against racism, challenging sexism, and relationships with authority. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 6. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Enrichment

- Careers spotlight: Marine Engineer/Naval Architect, linking our shipbuilding history to modern engineering careers

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the first six weeks of the term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



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