

## YEAR 6 SUMMER TERM:

## BATTLES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR WORLD



As **Language Specialists** we will be reading extracts from the contemporary classic war novels *War Horse*, *Private Peaceful* and *Waiting for Anya* by Michael Morpurgo. We will be exploring how war is viewed from a child's perspective by reading John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and Morris Gleitzman's *Once*, which are both set in Germany. We will also be studying the film and theatre interpretations of Michelle Magorian's *Goodnight Mr Tom* (such as the stage play adaptation written by David Wood and the film directed by Jack Gold, starring John Thaw). Other genres of literature will include analysing the monumental impact of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, as well as appreciating other perspectives of war, like those documented in the war poetry of Wilfred Owen and *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred Lord Tennyson; we will be creating our own poems based on battlefield experiences and The London Blitz. In our non-fiction genre we will be writing instructions about how to tackle an army assault course and will also be holding class debates about issues surrounding conflict, such as, women's roles, evacuees and the necessity of war.

As **Geographers** we will be examining the location and contribution of the key countries in World War II. Which countries were the Allies? We will also be looking at the impact of the war outside of Europe (in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia) and examining where the key battles were won and lost. The evacuation of children across the country will also be of particular interest.

As **Historians** we will be looking at the key battles throughout antiquity including the battle of Kadesh, The battles of Hastings, Waterloo and World Wars I and II, considering the evolution of battle and how technology and materials have influenced the development of weaponry. We will also be considering the important but often unappreciated role of animals during war such as, horses, camels, and carrier pigeons with reference to the monument at Brooke Gate.

As **Scientists** we will be building on our knowledge of electricity and constructing circuits, to help us answer questions about what happens when we try different components, for example, switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors. We will then be linking this knowledge to our DT - as **Design Technologists** we will be making (from scratch) electric powered army tanks, considering suitable choices of materials and tools to construct our vehicles and will be using our circuit knowledge to enhance our designs.

### Knowledge of the World

What roles did women play during both World Wars? We will be exploring the fascinating *Woman's War* photography of Lee Miller.

### The Arts and Sports

From Test Cricket's *The Ashes* to Boxing's *Rumble in the Jungle*, we'll examine the most intense rivalries in sporting history.

**The Big Idea:** "The two most powerful warriors are patience and time" - or so says Leo Tolstoy. In this fascinating topic we will examine how the modern world has been shaped by the conflicts of our past. We will consider struggles for power, the quest for equality, personal battles that have been won and epic battles that have been lost. We will ask ourselves: Are some wars necessary? Are some fights unwinnable? Can we draw inspiration from adversity? Join us as we examine the nature of conflict and explore how some of the greatest battles in history have shaped our world today.

As **Mathematicians** we will be considering how the World War II Code Breakers (such as Alan Turing and his Enigma code breaking machine) were essential to the Allies prevailing over the Nazi war machine. We will be looking at other code breaking devices that have been used through history and we'll be creating our own codes to communicate top secret information. Investigations regarding data, ratio and area will be other avenues of mathematical exploration we will be engaging with.

### Across the curriculum

As **Athletes** we will be developing our skills in an array of athletics events in order to be at our very best for the legendary King Athelstan sports day!

As **Theologians** we will examine the contribution of Ghandi, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X to their respective faiths, as well as looking in detail at the beliefs and culture of Baisakhi Sikhism.

As **members of our community** we will explore the notion of family, anxiety, change, relationships and feelings - relating these concepts to *The Diary of Anne Frank* and her inspirational story.

As **Musicians** we will listen and reflect on the great war movie themes of our time, including the *Dam Busters March* by Eric Coates, the *Colonel Bogey March* by Lieutenant FJ Ricketts (from the film *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*) and the World War II songs of Vera Lynn, Gracie Fields and Flanagan & Allen. We will also be listening to the wonderful melodies produced by Motown, examining its role in the battle for racial equality.

As **speakers of French** we will be using geographical language to locate and discuss key battlefield locations in France and Belgium.

As **Artists** we will be studying the war art of Sir William Orpen, Christopher Nevinson, Paul Nash, Henry Moore, Olive Mudie-Cooke and *In the East End, November 1940* by Reginald Mills. Soldier self-portraits will also be created using drawing and collage.

As **Computer Programmers** we will be looking into the history of programmable computers, and how the Enigma Code Breaking machine was created. We will also be experimenting with Microsoft publisher to create our own World War II propaganda posters.

### Year 6 Production

This year's production is *'Darwin Rocks'* which links perfectly with last term's science topic of evolution. It pays tribute to history's most famous advocate of evolution in an adventure of discovery.

### Ambition and Possibilities

"Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind" - John F Kennedy.  
Is humankind capable of eradicating war from our planet?