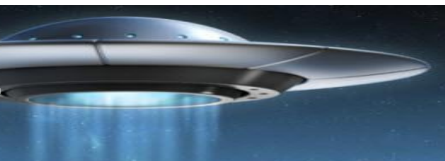


# Year 6 - The Unexplained

## Autumn 2019



**As Language Specialists** we will debate whether UFOs, The Loch Ness Monster, Ghosts, Vampires, Ancient Miniature People and the Bermuda Triangle are realities or merely great fictions of our time. We will be reading extracts from the eternal classic *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, using it as inspiration for creating our own horror fiction as well as newspaper reports. We will examine the fantastic fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen, such as *The Little Mermaid* and *Thumbelina*, and investigate the strange legends of the extinct pygmy peoples of 20,000 years ago and the literature they have inspired (such as JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, Terry Pratchett's *Truckers*, Lynne Reid Banks' *The Indian in the Cupboard* and Mary Norton's *The Borrowers*). We will also be appreciating Edgar Allan Poe's poem *The Raven* and watching Tim Burton's short film *Vincent* (based on Poe's classic poem, with narration from the master of horror himself, Vincent Price). In addition we will be watching selected episodes of ITV's 1980's paranormal investigative show *Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers* and classic 1960's American CBS show *The Twilight Zone*, created by Rod Serling. Additional texts this term will include Guy Fawkes poetry and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.

**As Geographers** we will use maps to plot sightings of unexplained phenomenon. We will be developing our understanding of latitude, longitude, the equator, the tropics, the polar regions and time zones. We will also be locating, naming and describing the world's continents, countries and oceans using atlases, globes and virtual maps.

**As Historians** we will look in detail at the mystery surrounding the Mary Celeste and use our investigative skills to establish the truth about what happened to the crew of this famous ship. We will give reasons for different interpretations of the past, analysing primary and secondary sources of information to inform our judgements.

**As Scientists** we will be delving deep into shadows and exploring the properties of light! Year 6 will be investigating the mysteries and theories about how light travels and changes depending on surfaces. We will look at the wonders of the remarkable human body and how the eye works. We will carry out scientific investigations as well as using enquiry and research skills to enhance our learning and feed our curiosity.

### Knowledge of the World

Were there miniature human-like creatures that roamed the Earth thousands of years ago? Who were the *Homo Floresiensis* peoples and what is the evidence for their existence? We will endeavour to find out.

### The Arts and Sports

What are the main theories for the strange crop circle incidents that perennially occur across the world? How on earth are these patterns made without a trace of human involvement?

### Enquiry

What is *déjà vu*? Have you experienced it? If you have, what does it mean? We will investigate this common, yet unnerving, phenomenon.

### Ambition and Possibilities

How has the representation of *The Vampire* changed over time? From Christopher Lee to Robert Pattinson, we will endeavour to predict the next incarnation of this enduring fictional creature.

**The Big Idea:** "It's highly unlikely, but not outside the realms of extreme possibility" declared Agent Scully, the intrepid conspiracy theorist from the 1990's popular TV series *The X-Files*. In this wonderful topic, we will investigate the unexplained phenomenon that has fascinated us over the decades. Are aliens amongst us? Are mermaids real? How can the sightings of the Loch Ness Monster be validated? What really happened to the Mary Celeste? As investigators we will explore questions such as these, researching and presenting evidence and debating and discussing theories, as we attempt to unravel these great mysteries of *the unexplained!*

**As Mathematicians** we will examine the mysterious and magical properties of prime numbers, considering why it is widely thought by astronomers that the language of extra-terrestrial communication would be founded on these strange numerical oddities. We will also be applying what we know to real-life problems, using skills such as: times-tables, conversions, decimals, fractions and percentages.

### Across the curriculum

**As Athletes** we will be developing our football and rugby skills and practising our apparatus work in gymnastics.

**As Theologians** we will consider the importance of life style and reincarnation to the Hindu faith and the significance of the Torah to Jewish people.

**As members of our community** we will endeavour to listen to and understand the views and opinions of others, developing our ability to empathise with and appreciate different perspectives.

**As Musicians** we will be listening to the edgy musical film scores of Bernard Herrmann, analysing how he creates suspense, peril and melodrama within his music - as well as appreciating the theme tune from his most famous tune of all, *The Twilight Zone*.

**As speakers of French** we will develop new conversational skills and investigate linguistic patterns as we talk about ourselves.

**As Artists** we will explore the complexities of the work of our class artist. We will work in 3D to plan, design, and create UFOs and aliens. We will also be imitating the pulp science fiction cover art of Frank R Paul's *Amazing Stories* comics. We will study the drawing techniques used by Danish artist John Kenn for his creepy monsters to produce our own detailed monster drawings.

**As Computer Programmers** we will use the internet to search for the primary and secondary sources of information that will help formulate our opinions. We will also present our discoveries using Microsoft Power Point and other presentation software.

**As Design Technologists** we will be creating our very own papier mache *Area 51* aliens.