



Year 5 – Owls



Summer 2nd 2026

Topic Overview:

This half-term, our topic is: **The Greatest Show on Earth**. We will be learning about the Great Exhibition of 1851, within the context of the Victorians. We will be exploring the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the lives of ordinary people and how the Great Exhibition (organised by Prince Albert) proved to be a significant turning point in British History. What changes came about as a result of the Great Exhibition? Were they all positive changes? What did people say about the Great Exhibition at the time? Why is it still remembered today?

Hook:

Class Quiz about Victorian Inventors and their Amazing Inventions



Outcome:

Our own Great Exhibition of our topic work



What's being covered?

Maths	Decimals, Negative Numbers, Converting Units, Volume	
English	Poetry, Character and Setting Descriptions, Biography	
	Topic	Skills
History	The Greatest Show on Earth	- develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British History - note connections, contrasts and trends over time - develop the appropriate use of historical terms - devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance - construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information - understand how knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources
DT	Bridges	- Identify stronger and weaker shapes. - Recognise that supporting shapes can help increase the strength of a bridge, allowing it to hold more weight. - Identify beam, arch and truss bridges and describe their differences. - Use triangles to create simple truss bridges that support a load (weight). - Cut beams to the correct size, using a cutting mat. - Smooth down any rough cut edges with sandpaper. - Follow each stage of the truss bridge creation as instructed by their teacher. - Complete a bridge, with varying ranges of accuracy and finish, supported by the teacher. - Identify some areas for improvement, reinforcing their bridges as necessary
Music	Reflect, Rewind, Replay	- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression - listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory - use and understand staff and other musical notations
Science	Properties and Changes of Materials	- Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties - Know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution - Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated - Give reasons for the particular uses of everyday materials - Demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes - Explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials
Computing	Programming	- design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts - use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output - use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs - select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information
PSHE	Growing & Changing Keeping Safe	- Recognise personal identity and what contributes to it, including race, sex, gender, family, faith, culture, hobbies, likes/ dislikes - Understand that for some people their gender identity does not correspond with their biological sex - Recognise, respect and express individuality and personal qualities

		• Know ways to boost mood and improve emotional wellbeing • Recognise the link between participating in interests, hobbies and community groups and mental wellbeing • Identify when situations become risky, unsafe or an emergency • Identify occasions when it is important to take responsibility for own safety • Differentiate between positive risk taking and dangerous behaviour • Know how to deal with common injuries using basic first aid techniques • Know how to respond to an emergency, including when and how to contact different emergency services
French	Leisure Activities	• use verb phrases that describe leisure activities • learn to create “purpose clauses” to express what I am going to do. • use the pronouns il and elle to create sentences • use an adverbial phrase of time as a sentence opener, e.g. à neuf heures • practice creating spoken sentences to say where I am going, and for what purpose • revise my favourite colour • create spoken and written sentences that include time, place and purpose
RE	Understanding Christianity: How can following God bring freedom and justice?	• understand what is meant by “freedom” and “justice” • consider the themes of freedom and justice within the Moses story • consider the themes of freedom and justice within the context of the 10 Commandments • consider the themes of freedom and justice within Jesus’ teaching and miracles • know how Christians pursue freedom and justice today
Indoor PE	Swimming	• swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres • use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke] • perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.
Outdoor PE	Tennis	• Control the ball to develop a cooperative rally • Develop the underarm serve • Develop footwork and return of serve • Position on court • Recover after a shot • Develop the serve and recognise the 5 basic ways to win a point