

Gatten and Lake Primary School Curriculum News

Year 6 - Spring 1 - WW1 verses WW2 : which war changed Britain the most?



Over the forthcoming half term the children will be:

- Developing their knowledge of the reasons for the war and comparing the differences between World War 1 and World War 2. They will research into the causes of wars Britain have been involved in and review the consequences of war: good and bad.
- Reading and producing writing related to our whole school production and an engaging text, 'Ice Trap' by Merideth Hooper.
- Developing their use of collage to create explosive art with a range of textures and materials.
- In Maths, the children will be working on ratio and proportion, algebra and geometry.
- In Science, the children will be finding out about electricity and circuit boards. They'll be learning the technical symbols for circuit diagrams and using their enquiry skills to work out how changing circuit layouts impact upon the brightness on bulbs.
- In ICT, the class will be learning how to use spreadsheets to show data about WW2.
- In PSHE, we will be thinking about 'safety and how to keep ourselves safe online, on the roadside and in school.
- In PE, the children will be developing their basketball skills with a coach and developing their fitness. PE will be on Mondays and Fridays this half term, although PE kits should be in school every day. Please ensure that your child has a fully labelled kit.

At home your child could:

- Make war medals out of materials found around the home.
- Interview family, friends or neighbours who may have experience of living through the war and finding about how it affected their lives.
- Design their own 'Dig for Victory' poster and research other propaganda posters.
- Read 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne, 'Blitzcat' by Robert Westall or 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo.

As a family you may like to:

- Research some recipes that were common during the rationing period and try to make some at home.

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What we did last half term in Autumn Part 2

The last half term was very busy with our investigation into whether or not 'The Great War' was great.

In **English**, the children created a newspaper article and letter home from war, based upon Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful*. The children reviewed a wordless animation and developed their emotive language to create a flashback of war. They also spent some time developing the readers in reception.



In **Maths** lessons, the children worked on maths journeys with a focus on calculation strategies and fractions. Using their problem solving skills was a key part of their learning throughout their lessons. In **Science**, we developed our knowledge of 'Living things and their habitats'. They improved their understanding of how animals, plants and micro-organisms are classified into groups and researched the Linnaeus system.



Across the curriculum, the children have enjoyed developing their skills in a range of dance choreography in **PE**; learning all about the developments of World War 1; and in **RE** they explored the concept of interpretation in the context of the Christmas story. In **Art**, the children enjoyed learning how to use perspective accurately in their drawings, while focusing on showing expression and emotion.

As well as the wonderful learning that took place in class, the children travelled to London and visited the Imperial War Museum. This was a great way for the class to learn more about their topic and to gain first-hand experience of the artefacts on display.

We are looking forward to a new half term of learning about WWII and the differences between the two wars.