

Marine Academy Primary, Trevithick Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 2AF

T: 01752 213939 W: <http://www.marineacademy.org.uk/primary/>

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Tuesday 6th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Marine Academy Primary Year 6 pupils,

Each term, we send you a letter to let you know what your child will be learning about in each subject. This term, Year 6 will be learning about **Civil Rights** in their **History** lessons and will find answers to the following questions before using their knowledge to write a speech and engage in a debate at the end of the term:

1. What was the United States of America like in the 1950s?
2. Why did Oliver Brown take the Board of education to the Supreme Court?
3. Why didn't Rosa Parks give up her seat on the bus?
4. What was Dr Martin Luther King Jr's dream?
5. Why did 3,200 people march from Selma to Montgomery?
6. What is the Black Lives Matter Movement and why is it needed?



Slavery was officially outlawed in America in 1865 but this was far from the end of it. It would take many years and a great struggle to see black Americans treated in the same way as white Americans. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement – led by Martin Luther King Jr – challenged white supremacy and African Americans, along with many white people, began an unprecedented fight for equality that spanned two decades. A knowledge organiser sharing all of the information – including facts, a timeline and key vocabulary – that the children will learn about in their History lessons is attached. Please feel free to use this with your child to develop their knowledge and understanding at home.



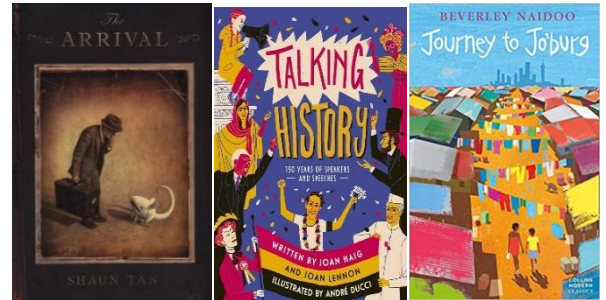
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In **Science**, the children will learn about physical and chemical changes, including the composition and movement of particles within pure substances and mixtures.

In **English**, the children's writing will be based on the books 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan and 'Talking History: 150 Years of Speakers and Speeches' by Joan Lennon and Joan Haig. In their **Whole Class Reading** sessions, they will be reading 'Journey to Jo-Burg' by Beverley Naidoo.



In **Maths**, the children will build on their recent fractions unit by learning about decimals and percentages. They will also apply their multiplication and division skills to study ratio.

In **RE**, the children will explore the question 'Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?' and in **SMSC** (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education) the children will learn about 'Keeping Myself Safe'. In **Computing** lessons, the children will learn about 'Webpage Creation' and will use Google Sites to create their own webpages. In **Art**, they will build on their Civil Rights learning by exploring symbolic imagery and street art. In **Spanish**, they will learn about sentence structures and using adverbs.



This term, **PE** will be on Monday and your child can wear their PE kit to school.

If you ever have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to their class teacher or email year6@marineacademy.org.uk. We are really looking forward to another super term ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tracey Stannard
Teacher

Miss Jessica Uren
Teacher

Mrs Danielle Kennedy
Upper Key Stage Two Leader



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Knowledge Organiser - Civil Rights - Year 6

Vocabulary	Definition
Civil Rights	The rights that people have in a society to equal treatment and equal opportunities, whatever their race, sex, or religion.
Equality	The same status, rights, and responsibilities for all the members of a society, group, or family.
Inequality	The difference in social status, wealth, or opportunity between people or groups.
A movement	A group of people who share the same beliefs, ideas, or aims.
Civil disobedience	Peacefully refusing to follow laws or commands that you feel are unfair.
Nonviolence	The act of not using violence under any circumstances (especially during protests).
Segregation	Keeping one group of people apart from another and treating them differently, especially because of race, sex, or religion.
Important Legal Decisions	
Jim Crow Laws	A series of laws in southern states, which discriminated against black people.
Plessy v Ferguson 1896	The ruling that 'separate but equal' facilities could be provided by states and businesses. Allowed segregation and 'Jim Crow' laws.
'Separate but equal' law	
Brown v Board of Education	Oliver Brown took the school board of Topeka to court after his daughter was refused admission to a white school. The Supreme Court combined Brown's case with several others, ruling that the segregation was unfair, and that separate did not mean equal.
Civil Rights Act 1964	A law that made discrimination illegal in public places, provided for the desegregation of schools and other public facilities, and made employment discrimination illegal.

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