

Great Expectations

Year 6 - Autumn Term 2026

What's it all about?

This topic explores the Victorian era and what life was like for those who lived through it. We will be finding out about key Victorians and the British Empire. We will explore how the industrial revolution changed people's lives forever.



Historians: We will be studying the changes that occurred during the Victorian era. See knowledge organiser.

Scientists: We will be studying the science topic 'Living things and their habitat' which explores the work of Carl Linnaeus and his method of scientific classification. The children will sort living things into categories, just as real taxonomists do. See knowledge organiser for more detail.

Readers: We will be exploring Berlie Doherty's *Street Child*, a novel based on the true story of the orphaned children who inspired Dr Barnardo to set up his children's homes. A fantastic read.

Spellers: Our focused spelling patterns this half-term will be vowel and consonant suffixes.

Writers: We will be using our core text as inspiration to write stories in historical settings. We will also be writing an argument as to the advantages/disadvantages of the workhouse.

Mathematicians: We will be looking at place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Musicians: We will be looking at learning about Big Band and Swing music during the 1930s and 1940s with a focus of Glen Miller.

Artists: We will be learning to about the Victorian artist William Morris and will be using his artwork as inspiration for our own repeated pattern design..

Family Learning Ideas: Why not watch the film 'Oliver' to get a sense of Victorian England.

Values

To will be focusing on the value of positivity.

Trips/in-school visits: We will be holding a Victorian School morning to give children first-hand experience of the lessons which would have taken place in the Victorian school. Expectations of behaviour and academic excellence will be as they were in 1890! More details to follow in a few weeks.