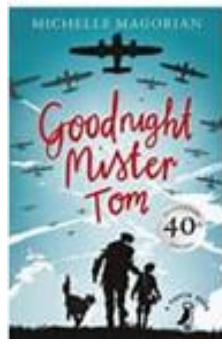


# Ask Me About

## Kestrels 2023-2024

February 2024

### English



The children have continued to progress with their writing, producing some wonderful descriptive work based on *The Arrival* and a short animation of *The Blitz*. We have also been delighted with their retelling work based on sections from *Goodnight, Mr. Tom* and an advertisement which used events from Christmas

World War 1 as a starting point. They have shown they can write informatively through explanation texts relating to the Battle of Britain- this was a task which linked with the topic work from this term.

### Maths

We have covered the areas of decimals and percentages, exploring how they link with fractions, and have explored the tricky topic of ratio and scale factors. We have been developing the key arithmetic skills through weekly arithmetic practice and have used this to help children with any areas of weakness through small intervention groups with Mrs. Henson. There is still a small group of children who need help with their times tables- they are part of an intervention group working with Mrs. Henson, but please encourage your child to learn and develop their speed of recall and use of times tables facts. Mrs Atkins has also started working with a small group of children to develop targeted areas of their maths topic work covered in class. Assessments have shown progress for all the children.

### Reading

The children have been enjoying reading the amazing '*Goodnight, Mr. Tom*' by Michelle Magorian. We have incorporated the story into some of their writing tasks, allowing them to develop a better understanding of the characters and life for children in World War 2. As ever, encourage your children to read every day and across a range of genres and styles- open up their minds to the amazing books which are available, either by purchase, through libraries (including the class one) or online. Mrs. Henson will be still working with some children to develop fluency, but will also have a group targeted with developing their comprehension skills.

## Other Subjects

World War Two and the Battle of Britain has been our main focus in history-exploring its significance in how the war unfolded. Please remember to share any family stories of WW2 as the children love to hear them and will often share them in class- we must maintain family stories and help pass them on from generations-oral story telling is a great skill for the children to hear and to develop. We have already had several of the children sharing stories they have heard from home- it may be an idea to encourage them to write these stories down.

This term, we asked the question, 'What would Jesus do?' offering children the opportunity to explore how Jesus set a code for moral behaviour through his actions. We explored this through situations we could face and resolutions, linking these to what Jesus said.

We explored encryption and code breaking in computing - linking some of it to our WW2 work.

In Science we will find out about Light: exploring how it travels, how we need it to see, how it travels through different mediums (or not), making shadows and the colours in light.

PE was slightly different from planned as we had a new dance topic to trial, not the WW2 one as planned. For those not so keen on dancing, they had the chance to explore more modern use of choreography. They have also practised basketball skills, improving their dribbling and team work.

Again we have had some wonderful art inspired by the WW2 underground sketches of the artist/sculptor Henry Moore. The children recreated his style of drawing and then composed scenes as if from the underground shelters, before sketching/drawing in the style of Henry Moore. They have made some sculptures based on his post war work, and will get the chance to finish these next term.

We have continued with French lessons with the aid of the language specialist from Hurst. PSHE work was based on 'Dreams and Goals': helping the children to focus on aspirations in and out of school.

## Homework

Homework is on Google Classroom and will be available as a paper copy for those who prefer it. So far, the majority of children have made every effort to complete their homework on time- please keep this up. Please remind them, that if they need help to ask for class support (during the week the homework has been set).

### SATs

The children have now got the SATs revision books- please ensure they keep practising at home and ask for help if unsure. Assessments in school have shown that good progress is being made.

### Extra support

Miss Beaton has continued to teach and support the children- she has been an excellent addition to the year 6 team, and will be missed when she returns to her studies.

### Miscellaneous

- If you have any concerns about the children and their use of social media, can you please use the links on the school website (key information/e-safety advice)
- Can you please make sure that all children wear appropriate PE kit in school for their PE days (Monday and Thursday)
- If you need to speak with myself or Mrs Henson please contact the school and we will arrange a suitable time.

*Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Henson and Miss. Beaton.*