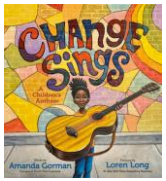
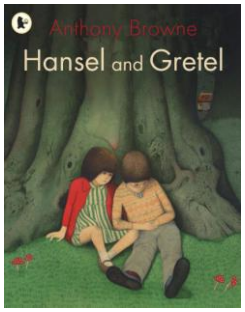
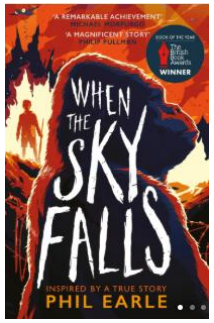
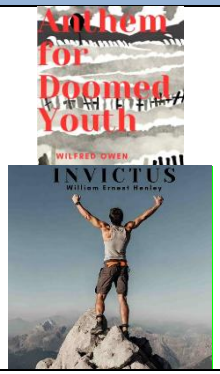
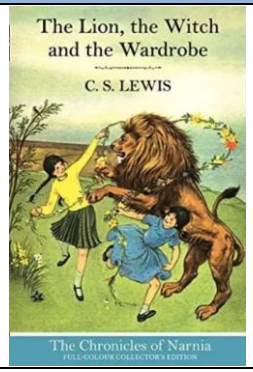
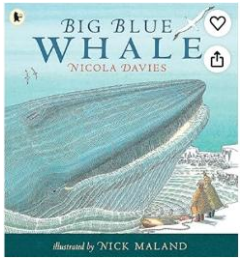
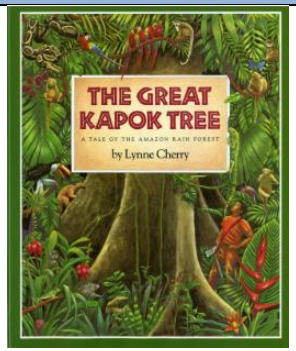
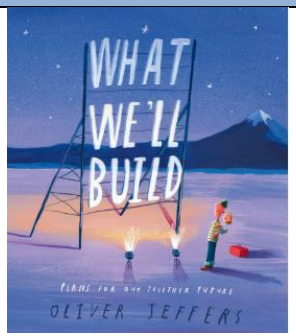
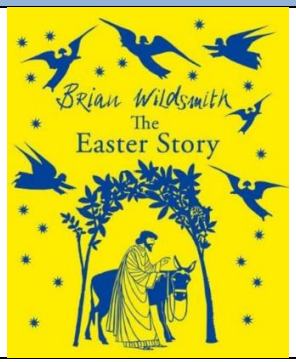
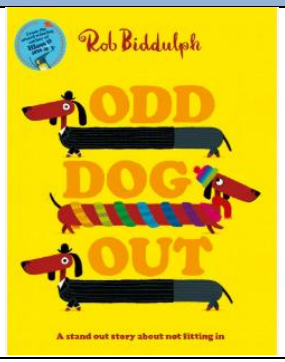
Dunn Street Primary School
English Curriculum
Text Overview and Rationale
The Mighty Oaks

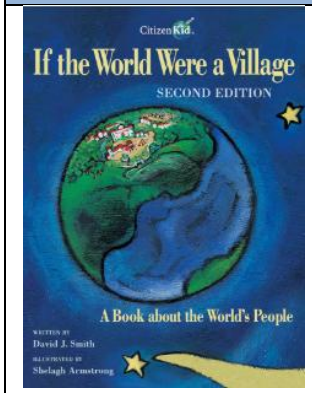
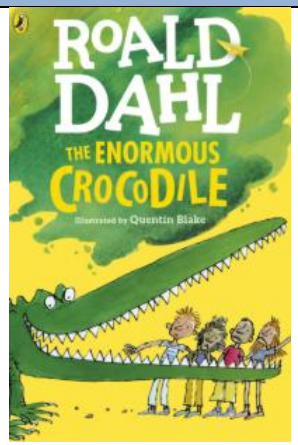
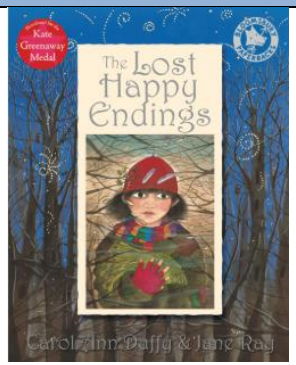
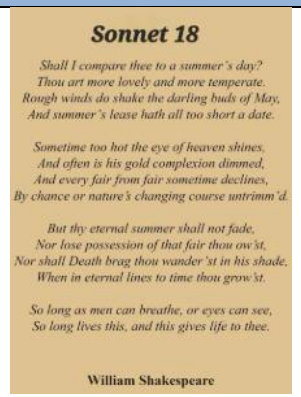
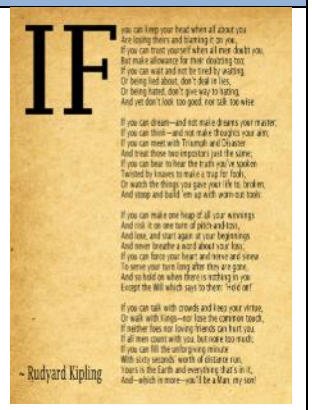
Our English curriculum aims to raise aspiration and close disadvantage gaps by promoting high standards of language and literacy for every child. Rooted in our values—**Together We Learn, Grow and Achieve**—we equip pupils with a strong command of both spoken and written language and nurture a love of literature through reading for pleasure. In our community, where many children have limited early language experiences, these skills are vital. They empower pupils to learn confidently, grow in knowledge and independence, and achieve the foundations needed to participate fully and equally in society.

AUTUMN TERM						
						
Using Change Sings supports pupils in exploring themes of hope, equality and social change through powerful poetic language and symbolism, inspiring them to analyse figurative techniques and create their own purposeful poetry.	Provides the conventions of traditional tales through rich imagery, atmospheric storytelling and complex themes, inspiring pupils to create their own sophisticated adaptations.	Supports pupils in developing instruction writing through its detailed World War Two setting and emotionally rich portrayal of evacuation, providing authentic historical context and vocabulary that can be transformed into clear, structured procedural writing.	Explores contrasting perspectives of war and remembrance through powerful imagery, symbolism and emotive language, inspiring pupils to make thoughtful vocabulary choices in their own blackout poetry.	Provides pupils with a rich winter setting, complex characters and powerful themes that inspire sophisticated diary writing from a first-person perspective, exploring thoughts, emotions and key events.	Provides pupils with rich scientific vocabulary and engaging factual information, enabling them to select, organise and present detailed knowledge in a formal non-chronological report.	Using selected extracts supports pupils in developing sophisticated setting descriptions through Dickens' rich imagery, atmospheric language and vivid portrayal of a Victorian Christmas.

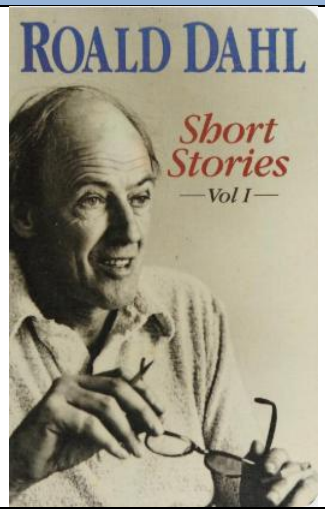
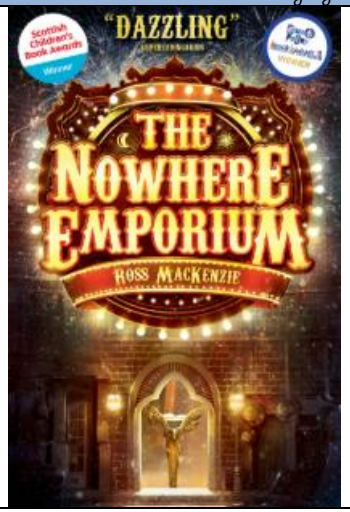
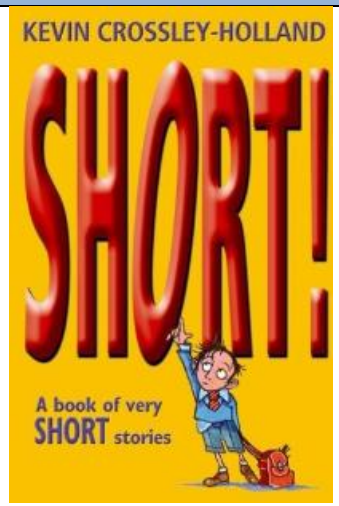
Dunn Street Primary School
English Curriculum
Text Overview and Rationale
The Mighty Oaks

SPRING TERM					
					
Provides Year 6 pupils with rich opportunities to develop character descriptions by exploring complex relationships and showing personality through actions, dialogue and changing perspectives.	Enables access to a rich environmental narrative that presents multiple persuasive viewpoints, enabling pupils to analyse argument, audience and emotive language before crafting structured and convincing persuasive letters.	Exposes Year 6 pupils to concise, poetic language and reflective imagery, enabling them to explore line breaks, word choice and structure when creating their own free verse poetry.	Encourages Year 6 pupils to write rich first-person diary entries by exploring key events through powerful imagery and emotional perspectives that support thoughtful reflection in role.	Enables pupils to select and reshape humorous and emotive vocabulary about identity and belonging, transforming narrative language into concise, expressive blackout poems that celebrate individuality.	

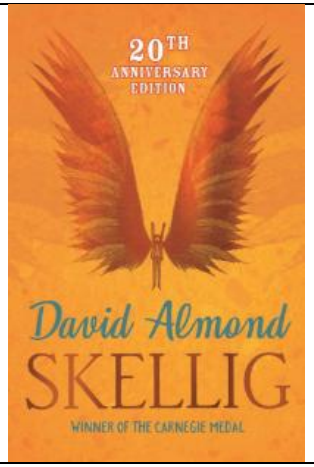
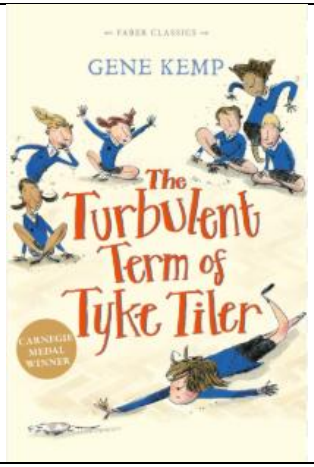
Dunn Street Primary School
English Curriculum
Text Overview and Rationale
The Mighty Oaks

SUMMER TERM					
					
Using *If the World Were a Village* enables Year 6 pupils to develop review writing by evaluating how effectively global statistics are simplified and presented through clear explanations and visual comparisons, supporting them to form and justify opinions using evidence from a non-fiction text.	Using problem–resolution narratives enables Year 6 pupils to identify and replicate clear story structure patterns, building tension through repeated problems that are resolved in logical and engaging ways.	Using alongside *Hansel and Gretel*, by Anthony Browne, enables Year 6 pupils to compare traditional and modern fairy-tale structures, exploring how settings, characters and meanings are reshaped in contemporary retellings.	Empowers Year 6 pupils to explore character motivation, conflict and moral consequence through an accessible retelling of Shakespeare's play, providing rich stimulus for writing formal and informal letters in role from characters such as Macbeth, Lady Macbeth or Banquo.	Studying Sonnet 18 enables Year 6 pupils to explore Shakespeare's use of vivid imagery and structured poetic form to express timeless ideas about beauty, nature and love, while developing confidence in analysing classical poetry.	Studying *If* as a transition poem enables Year 6 pupils to reflect on resilience, responsibility and personal growth through its clear, structured language and universal advice, supporting thoughtful discussion about readiness for secondary school.

Dunn Street Primary School
English Curriculum
Text Overview and Rationale
The Mighty Oaks

READING FOR PLEASURE During the year, these stories will be shared and enjoyed as a class at least once.		
		
Roald Dahl Short Stories Volume 1 is an engaging Reading for Pleasure choice for Year 6, offering humorous, imaginative and accessible stories that encourage enjoyment of reading while exposing pupils to rich vocabulary, distinctive characterisation and Dahl's playful use of language.	The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie is an engaging Reading for Pleasure choice for Year 6, combining mystery, magic and adventure to capture pupils' imaginations while encouraging reading stamina and exposing them to rich vocabulary, vivid settings and compelling characterisation.	Short! by Kevin Crossley-Holland is an engaging Reading for Pleasure choice for Year 6, offering a varied collection of short, memorable stories from different cultures and traditions that develops pupils' enjoyment of storytelling while broadening their cultural awareness, vocabulary and understanding of different narrative styles.

Dunn Street Primary School
English Curriculum
Text Overview and Rationale
The Mighty Oaks

		
Skellig by David Almond is a thought-provoking Reading for Pleasure choice for Year 6, combining mystery, fantasy and real-life themes to stimulate curiosity and discussion while exposing pupils to rich, atmospheric language, complex characters and ideas about friendship, hope and change.		The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler by Gene Kemp is an engaging Reading for Pleasure choice for Year 6, using humour, friendship and relatable school experiences to maintain pupils' interest while encouraging them to question assumptions, explore character and identity, and appreciate the impact of a cleverly constructed narrative.