

Autumn Year 6 – THE GREAT WAR (Mini theme)

Herne Junior School

Description/Theme Intent:

The children will learn about life during the time of The Great War, and how this conflict shaped our country and why it is still remembered to this day. Through their research of Walter Tull, they will discover how racism has reduced within the last hundred years due to human rights, discrimination laws and the challenging of peoples' opinions.

Curriculum Hook

The hook for this theme is reading the book *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. Through this book they will gain an understanding of what life was like both in rural Britain and on the battlefields of Flanders as Tommo and his brother are sent to the war in France.

Quality Text / Whole Class Reader:

- *Private Peaceful* will be the main focus for this mini theme, through which Michael Morpurgo describes a special brotherhood and how conflicts arise in their close-knit family.
- We will look at various biographical texts of Walter Tull, a football pioneer and war hero.

Links to being a British and Global Citizen:

- The children will gain an insight into the conflict across Europe and the World at this time, and how the horrors of The Great War led to the founding of The League of Nations, whose principal mission was to gain world peace.

Links to RRR, SMSC and HARMONY:

- This links well with the unit 'Personal Identity' as we study the identity of the main character of the book *Private Peaceful*, before reflecting on our own identities and how important it is to consider our actions and well-being.

Life Long Learning Skills:

- **Collaborative work:** The children will perform drama in order to imagine what life was like for Walter Tull, when he was taken to an orphanage.
- **Independent work:** The children will research a fallen soldier as part of their homework project, using this information to consider viewpoint when creating their written outcomes throughout this theme.

Outcome/Impact:

The children will create a biography of a war hero and a piece of poetry to describe the conflict from the battlefields or of the futility of war.

As readers, writers and performers, we will:

- Read and engage with the story *Private Peaceful* and answer questions using a range of reading skills.
- Research the life of Walter Tull through biographical texts and create a biography based upon what they believe were defining moments of this hero's life.
- Create a playscript and dramatic interpretation of how Walter would have felt when he was left at an orphanage as a young child.
- After reading some of The Great War poems, children will create their own piece of war poetry using the battles as a stimulus.

As geographers, we will:

- Track the progress of the brothers from the South West of England across France, where they were sent to the war. We will look at the nations across Europe and the World, and discover who fought in The Great War.

Celebrating our local community

- As a homework project linked with Remembrance Day, pupils will investigate local soldiers or family members who fought in The Great War and why it is important to remember them and their bravery.

As Historians, we will:

- Question why there was a need for a propaganda campaign during The Great War, linking into the scene in *Private Peaceful* where the community was addressed by the Colonel and encouraged to sign up to the war effort.