

## Homework Tasks (Year 6):

- **Comprehension:** Please complete – and mark – ‘Brian Cox’ on pg.2 and 3 of this file. Answers can be found on pg.4. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.
- **GPS:** Please read ‘Big Grey Man’ on pg.5 of this file then answer – and mark – the ‘Word’ and ‘Sentence’ questions on pg. 6 and 7. Answers can be found on pg.8. Please use these to help work out how to answer any questions you are unsure about. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.

***Please ensure your completed homework books are handed in at school on  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test on **Spring 1 Week 4** list of words will take place next **Friday**. The list of words is available separately on the Woodpecker Class page of the school website. Please log onto Spelling Shed to support practice at home.
- **Multiplication & Division Facts:** Application of multiplication and division facts will take place throughout the week during Fluent in Five and Flashback Four. Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 20 minutes** of independent reading at home, **every day**. *Please remember to log all new books read – both those at home and at school – in our class reading log as there are no home reading records in Woodpecker Class:*

## BRIAN COX

It's fair to say that our universe is pretty big, and understanding all of the things that go on inside it is a very complex endeavour. Without people like Brian Cox explaining it to us in easy-to-understand ways, most of us would find it utterly incomprehensible. Thankfully, Professor Brian Cox is here to help, and it has made him one of the most popular TV presenters in Britain.

Unpicking the secrets of the universe and laying them bare for us all to see wasn't always on the cards for Cox. He was born in 1968 to parents who were both bankers and spent his childhood enjoying dance and gymnastics. He developed a love of the universe as he grew up, especially after reading a book called *Cosmos* when he was twelve years old. Unfortunately, he didn't do particularly well in his A-level exams. Part of this was down to another commitment: his band.

Cox was a gifted keyboard player at a time when keyboards were becoming ever more popular in pop music. The late 80s and 90s were a time when electronic music really hit the charts, and Brian Cox joined two successful bands. Perhaps most successful were D:ream, who had a number 1 hit with "Things can only get better" in 1994 and supported Take That on tour. He continued to play keyboards for the band on certain albums until 2010 when he finally left for good.

During his time in the band, Cox went to university and earned a degree in Physics. He completed a doctorate, earning him a PhD in high energy particle physics, in 1998. He followed this up in 2005 by becoming a professor of particle physics at Manchester University.

Television is where Brian Cox has really found fame amongst the public. They can be forgiven for not reading his thesis on "double diffraction dissociation at large momentum transfer" (we're not sure what that means, either), but millions tuned in to watch his brilliant 2010 series, "Wonders of the Solar System". He then went on to present "Wonders

of the Universe” and “Wonders of Life” in the following few years.

Cox has presented many other TV shows, including the Stargazing Live events with Dara O’Brian. He has performed several TED talks and voiced shows for children’s education.

All of his work has earned Brian Cox international recognition. He was voted an International Fellow of The Explorers Club in 2002, won a Lord Kelvin’s Award for raising awareness of science in 2006 and received an OBE in 2010. He now spends lots of his time working with the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

Brian and his wife, Gia, have a son named George, who was born in 2009. George’s middle name is “Eagle”, which his parents chose after the lunar module Apollo 11, which took the first humans to the moon. With a name like that, perhaps Brian won’t be the last of his family to take an interest in the secrets of the universe.

## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. When was Brian Cox born?
2. What was his first job?
3. Where did Cox teach as a professor?
4. Which “Wonders of...” TV show was released first?
5. When did he received his OBE?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**V**

What is an “endeavour”?

**V**

Find and copy a word that tells the reader how the author felt about the “Wonders of...” series.

**S**

Why might Brian Cox’s life have taken a different direction?

**I**

Why was the timing of Cox’s keyboard skills useful?

**E**

What is the purpose of the opening paragraph?

Answers - Brian Cox:

1. 1968
2. A keyboard player in a band
3. Manchester University
4. Wonders of the Solar System
5. 2010

V: An attempt to achieve something

V: Brilliant

S: Accept answers that reference his A-level grades or his focus on the band

I: He learned to play at a time when keyboards were becoming very popular in chart music

E: To explain to people what Brian Cox's most famous contributions are to us all

## Big Grey Man

Up at the top of Ben Macdui, a lone hiker stopped in his tracks and shuddered. A thick grey mist had appeared from nowhere, shrouding the peak in a bewildering blanket of shadows. With the mist came an undeniable sense of dread and panic. The hiker knew what it meant.

He turned on his heels and tried to run, but every direction seemed the same as the next. He spun in circles, desperately clawing at the air in front of him, either to defend himself from an attack that didn't come or to find something to hold himself upright.

He'd heard the legend of the Big Grey Man of Ben Macdui before. The enormous, Sasquatch-like beast that was said to hunt on the mountain. He'd heard about its towering height, its brute strength and its thick matted fur. He knew about the feeling of fear that preceded its arrival, but he'd never expected to witness it himself. He stood stock-still and watched as a shadow emerged from the mist.

# FOCUS ON - WORD

**1** Add a prefix to each of the words.

\_\_\_\_\_ appeared

\_\_\_\_\_ heard

\_\_\_\_\_ emerged

dis

re

mis

**2** Circle the four adjectives in the sentence below.

He'd heard about its towering height, its brute strength and its thick matted fur.

**3** Write the root word for undeniable.

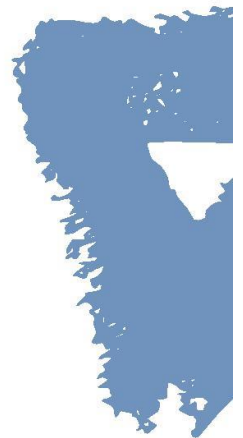
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Underline the synonym for motionless.

He stood stock-still and watched as a shadow emerged from the mist.

**5** Draw a circle around the subject in this sentence:

The hiker knew what it meant.



# FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

**1** Write a different subordinating conjunction in the missing space.

He turned on his heels and tried to run, but every direction seemed the same as the next.

He turned on his heels and tried to run, \_\_\_\_\_ every direction seemed the same as the next.

**2** What is the grammatical term for the words which have been underlined?

Up at the top of Ben Macdui, a lone hiker stopped in his tracks and shuddered.

**3** Identify the relative pronoun in the following sentence.

He knew about the feeling of fear that preceded its arrival.

**4** Underline the expanded noun phrase.

A thick grey mist had appeared from nowhere.

**5** Identify each word by writing the correct letter in the box.

He spun in circle, desperately clawing at the air in front of him.



A = adverb

B = noun

C = verb

D = pronoun



# Answers - Big Grey Man

## WORD

1. disappeared  
misheard  
re-emerged
2. towering, brute, thick, matted
3. deny
4. stock-still
5. hiker

## SENTENCE

1. however, nevertheless, even though, although,
2. fronted adverbial, (prepositional phrase)
3. that
4. A thick grey mist had appeared from nowhere.
5. He spun in circle, desperately clawing at the air in front of him.