

This half term Year 5/6 are learning about:



English

In English, Year 5 will begin with a poetry unit: learning a poem before using it as a model to write their own! After that, the children will read a warning story by Pie Corbett called 'The Caravan'. In this genre of writing, the children will focus on identifying and using dialogue, as well as revising the use of fronted adverbials. Throughout both units, children will be improving their spelling and grammar knowledge and have opportunities to edit and improve their work. This half term, Year 5 will be reading 'Secrets of a Sun King' by Emma Carroll.

Year 6 will be exploring a short story called 'Blackberry Blue' by Jamila Gavin. Throughout the unit, children will be developing their reading skills, understanding of grammar, knowledge of spelling rules and patterns, and use of punctuation. There will be a range of writing opportunities, with pupils composing setting descriptions, diaries, a formal invitation to a ball and letters. In both classes, handwriting will be practised regularly for children to achieve the expected standard by the end of Year 6 as children must use a legible, joined style. In Year 6, both classes will be reading 'Fireweed' by Jill Paton Walsh.

History: Life in Britain since 1948

In history, Year 5 and 6 will learn about life in Britain since 1948, focussing on what was like during the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and making comparisons between decades. As part of their work as historians, they will identify similarities and differences between sources of information available in different periods of the past.

Maths



In maths, Year 5 will be becoming more familiar with numbers up to 1 million. They will read, write, order and round numbers, to ensure a good understanding of place value. After this, the children will move on to addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with whole numbers, learning both mental and written methods. Children will also revise their times table (to 12 x 12) – aiming to recall facts quickly and successfully.

Year 6 will also start by developing their understanding of numbers – reading, writing, comparing, ordering and rounding numbers up to 10 million. The children will then focus on developing efficient mental and written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; tackling open ended problems to get them thinking and reasoning mathematically.

In both year groups, children will continue to develop their arithmetic skills through their Morning Work and also regular arithmetic tests.

Science: Electricity



In science, Year 5 and Year 6 will be learning what electricity is and where it comes from (including major discoveries by scientists) and how to use recognised symbols for drawing a circuit diagram. They will also investigate how to change the brightness of a bulb in a circuit as well as setting up a further investigation based on what they have learnt.

Art



In art, Year 5 and 6 will be learning about printing based on the creations of Camille Pissarro. They will learn about and explore different mono printing techniques. The children will gain experience in overlaying colours, using different coloured carbon copy paper and pastels and will start to explore overlaying prints with other media. The children will use what they have learnt to create their own prints inspired by the artist.

PE



This half term, Year 5 and 6 will focus on: athletics, OAA and fitness.

In athletics, the children will develop their running, jumping and throwing techniques. In OAA, the children will take part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team. In fitness, children will learn how to select the most appropriate pace for the distance and their fitness level in order to maintain a sustained run. In all units of work, the children will be encouraged to compare their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best.

PE kits
needed
Monday to
Friday

Key Vocabulary

This term, some of the words that we will be learning in Year 5 include:

- although
- thorough
- doubt
- solemn
- forgivable
- agreeable

This term, some of the words that we will be learning in Year 6 include:

- abruptly
- unhindered
- humiliated
- despair
- rejoiced
- yearned

Things to do at home:

- ❖ Regular reading with your child.
- ❖ Practise and learn times tables using the new Times Tables Rock Star app.
- ❖ Complete homework and spelling homework and hand it in on a Wednesday.
- ❖ Learn how to tell the time.

RE/PSHE



The first RE topic of the year focuses on family. Year 5 will study 'Ourselves'. In this topic, children will gain a deeper awareness of who they are; understanding that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Year 6 will study 'Loving', a topic in which they explore the love and care that people show to others, including those in need. They will gain an understanding that God's love is unconditional and never ending.

The second topic, which children will begin just before half term, explores themes of 'Belonging'. Year 5 will find out about the sacrament of Marriage while Year 6 will explore 'Vocation and Commitment'. The children will also have a chance to deepen their understanding of our weekly mission through Mission Circles and Circle Time.

Music



Year 5 will spend the first 6 weeks looking at a hip hop unit of music based on one song: The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. After this, they will begin a new unit called Classroom Jazz which focuses on Jazz, swing and Bossa Nova music. This unit will continue into Advent 2. In both units, the children will listen to and appraise music, play warm-up games, sing, and play musical instruments.

French



In their unit, 'Ma Famille', Year 6 will learn to say the nouns in French for family members; tell somebody the members and age of a fictitious family; and continue to count, reaching 100. In their unit, 'En Classe', they will learn to respond to simple classroom commands; repeat from memory simple classroom objects and to tell someone what they do/do not have in their pencil case.