



Year 5/6 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2025



Welcome back to school after what we hope was a restful Christmas break! The children have returned looking smart in their uniforms as always and are already showing how eager they are to begin their new topics.

We have lots more exciting learning planned for this term and we know that the children will continue to show use their excellent attitudes to learning so that they can become the best that they can be.

If you need further details about anything in this newsletter then please contact your child's teacher who will be more than happy to help.

We look forward to continuing to work with you during the year so that your child can enjoy school life and achieve as much as they possibly can.

Year 5/6 Team

Swans Class Teacher—Miss Brereton

Hérons Class Teacher—Miss Finning

Kingfishers Class Teacher—Miss Docherty

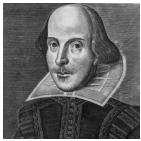
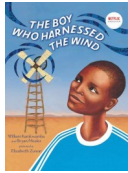
Mallards Class Teachers - Miss Regan Mrs Stevens

Supported by: Mrs Boothman, Mrs Jain and Mrs Murphy

Curriculum Information

Literacy

During the first half term, we will be working on a brand next text: *The Boy who Harnessed the Wind*. In class, after reading the book and watching clips for the film adaption, we will write contrasting setting descriptions, diary entries, newspaper reports and an explanation of how windmills work.



After half-term, we will be focusing on William Shakespeare and some of his works. We will look more at his life and build on our knowledge of plays such as *Romeo and Juliet*.

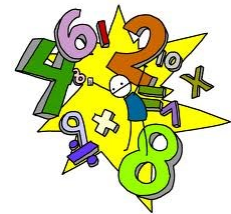
The children will continue to develop and widen their vocabulary and writing skills. Grammar and spelling rules will also be taught and applied in their writing. The children will have regular guided reading sessions to discuss the structure of texts, the development of characters and the author's choice of language.

We will continue to put a great emphasis on the children's reading, which is such an important life skill. Please make sure you hear your child read every day and discuss with them what they have read (see over for ideas of questions to ask).

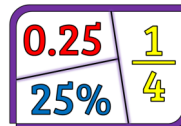
Reading is a very important part of the curriculum and we ask that you ensure that your child reads at least 4 times a week at home and that you sign their diaries weekly.

Numeracy

This term, Years 5 and 6 will build on their learning from the Autumn term.



In Year 5, the children will focus on multiplication and division of increasingly bigger numbers before moving onto units of work on fractions,



decimals and percentages. The children will learn how to find fractions of numbers and how they are linked to decimals and percentages.

During the Spring term, Year 6, on the other hand, will spend time learning about percentages, algebra, shape, area, perimeter and volume. They are going to be kept very busy learning all about finding missing numbers and using formulas in our algebra unit and well as investigating angles in our shape unit.

All children in Year 5 will also take part in daily maths drill sessions to help them in learning key maths facts such as times tables or division facts.

You can help your child with their maths skills by asking them known number facts, such as times tables. You could also support them by asking them about their specific target from 'Drill'

Year 5 Science

Year 5 will begin by learning about living things and their habitats. In this unit, they will learn about the life cycles of insects, birds, mammals and amphibians, and reproduction in different plants.

In the second half term, they will begin a larger topic of work on Materials. They will explore different materials, their uses and their properties, as well as dissolving, separating mixtures and irreversible changes.

Year 6 Science

Year 6 Science this half term will focus on Light and Shadow. This will include many investigations of how we can manipulate light. After half term, our learning will move on to electricity and our lessons will be very practical and investigative.

History

In History this half term, we will be learning about the Kingdom of Benin, a hugely successful African empire. The children will learn about what made them so powerful, their religious practises and their skills relating to bronze sculptures before investigating the reasons behind its fall.

Geography

In the second half term, complimenting our learning about William Shakespeare in Literacy, we will be completing a local study of Stratford upon Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace. We will learn about the different types of land use, how it has changed and developed over time, tourism and explore reasons for its limited growth in comparison to Milton Keynes.

Religious Education

In RE, we will begin the first half term by learning about the word 'sacrifice' and what this means to people of many different faiths and religions. After half term, we will exploring the difference between the laws of a country and religious beliefs.

Design Technology

In the first half term, the children will be learning about a technique called Hapa-Zome which is used to naturally dye fabric. They will then work together to create their own class patchwork quilt.

Art

In Art, during the second half term, linked to our learning about William Shakespeare, we will be studying a range of Tudor portraits, learning about the proportions of the face and then creating our own portraits in a similar style.

Computing

Year 5 will begin by creating their own websites during the first half term. They will then move on to learning about networks, focusing on the difference between a computer network and the Internet before moving onto using basic HTML code.

Year 6 will begin the first half term by learning how to program using Kodu then using this is create their own adventure game. In the second half term, they will move onto learning to about databases using Microsoft Excel to present data and solve problems using a range of formulae.

French

Our weekly French lessons will continue through out the week. Year 5 will be focusing on the themes 'Presenting Myself' and 'Family' whilst Year 6 focus on 'Pets' and 'the Weather'.

Music

Children will continue to have music lessons taught by our specialist Music Teacher, Mr McCarthy. They will continue to practise instruments such as the drums and ukeles.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 15th Jan	Y5 Pitt Rivers Visit
Friday 17th Jan	Y6 Pitt Rivers Visit
W.B Monday 27h Jan	Book Week
Tuesday 28th Jan (in place of 5 & 6)	Reading Scavenger Hunt bedtime story evening for Years 5 & 6)
Friday 31st Jan	Book character dress up day
W.B Monday 10th Feb	Internet Safety Week
Friday 14th Feb	Last day of term

Homework

Every week, the children will be expected to complete the following homework:

- Times table or division facts practise – daily
- Spelling practice – daily
- Reading - 4 times
- One piece of Maths (set on MyMaths) and one piece of English/Topic (set on Teams) to be completed each week

Reading

Possible questions to ask your child

- Ask them to explain what has happened in the story previously or what they think will happen.
- Discuss a character. What do they think of them? Why?
- Where is the story set? How do they know?
- What do various words mean?

If you need any more ideas please feel free to talk to your child's teacher.

PE Times

The children will be working with our fantastic coaches to learn about the rules and skills needed in different indoor and outdoor PE disciplines. To participate safely in the lessons, the children must bring in a full PE kit on the following days:

Swans: Monday and Friday

Hérons: Tuesday and Friday

Mallards: Wednesday and Friday

Kingfishers: Monday and Wednesday



Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit: white t-shirt, black shorts / jogging bottoms and trainers. The children may wear a plain black sweatshirt as the weather gets colder.