

Year 5/6
Curriculum Newsletter
Spring 2 2022

In English, we will be putting our reading skills to good use and examining themes, character and authors style and technique reading the acclaimed children's novel 'Skellig' by David Almond. As part of this unit we will be exploring monologues and dialogues as a way of expressing character's points of view and moods and a variety of spelling and grammar rules. We will also examine complimentary non-fiction texts which pick up on themes in the novel. With SATs tests approaching in May, we will be completing various practice exercises with our year 6 students and ensuring our year 5s meet all the National Curriculum requirements for their age group. Spelling lessons are every Monday, where new spelling patterns are examined and then revised throughout the week in class.

In P.E., we will be completing a gymnastics unit for indoor P.E. Children will learn a series of gymnastics movements and then build these into solo and partner sequences, before performing these back to the class. In outdoor P.E, they will be taught the skills for tennis by Mr. Rogers. They will then build these skills into rallies and then apply the skills to game situations.

In R.E, children will be exploring the question, 'Why do Christians celebrate Pentecost?' They will examine key beliefs, practices and symbolism associated with the period celebrated as marking the birth of the Christian church.

Our new class book is
Skellig by David Almond

History: The Industrial Revolution

We are learning about the move from manual labour to machine powered manufacturing. This will include looking at the work of engineers such as Richard Arkwright, James Watt, Abraham Derby and George Stephenson and innovations such as using water power and steam power. We will learn how these helped increase production of goods such as cotton and improved the transportation of these goods by steam engine and railways.

Geography: Australia

We are learning about Australia: its geographical biomes, its people and its industry. From looking at how Aboriginal tribes lived, to how Australia was colonised and became part of the Commonwealth - we will be examining how human activity has changed the landscape of Australia.

We will also consider how plants and animals are adapted to live in different biomes and how they may share certain characteristics as a result.

Science: Animals and their Habitats

We are learning about how animals are dependent on their habitats for survival and the interdependence of these ecosystems. We will examine how plants use seeds to reproduce and are, in turn, reliant on animals for their survival.

We will also look at the impact human activity has had on habitats and examine the work of Jane Goodall and David Attenborough.

Art: West African Art

We are learning about the tradition of making ceremonial masks and headdresses in West Africa. As part of this, we will look at traditional crafting methods and materials used in West Africa. Drawing inspiration from these we will be making our own 3D masks from corrugated card, learning how to build layers to create 3D features.

Maths

In maths we will be continue to work in year group classes.



Year 5 will continue their work on fractions, decimals and percentages. To help pupils best access this topic, it would be great if regular practise of Times Tables could continue at home, using whatever method suits your child. Regular year group battles are set up on Times Tables Rockstars for pupils to try to improve their speed of recall. Involving your children in as much "real world" maths as possible: counting money, recognizing shapes, measuring amounts etc., is a great way to help them see the importance of their maths skills in everyday life.

Year 6 will be focusing on algebra and then moving on to consider measurement including area, perimeter and volume, and ratio. We will be including plenty of SATs practice to ensure all children are fully confident for tests in May.

Reminders

All children need to have their reading book and planner in school every day. Children are expected to read at home 5 times a week. This should be recorded in their planners and will be checked by teachers weekly. Those reading x5 a week will receive a raffle ticket to enter into termly book voucher draws.

Home Learning

Home learning tasks are given on Fridays and must be returned by the following Wednesday. Pupils should record these in their home learning books, recording all answers across one double page each week. This includes one of the "pick and mix" maths tasks from the sheet stuck in the front of the book. A half term project is also set for the children to complete and bring in on Friday March 25th.

P.E (Please note the change of days for Bell and Albatross)

P.E is on Mondays and Tuesdays for Bell and St Louis, and Monday and Thursday for Albatross class. P.E kit must be in school on those days.



Dates for your diary:

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March
STAFF INSET – Friday 1st April
Easter Holiday – April 2nd – April 18th
SATs week – May 9th-12th