

English: We are Readers and Authors

Writing: We will be exploring the picture book, 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne and basing our narrative writing around this. As part of our enquiry, we will be reading The Origin of the Species by Charles Darwin before writing our own explanation texts.

Reading: Our class reader will be 'What Mr Darwin Saw' by Mick Manning.

Spelling: In class, we continue to focus on irregular verbs and will be practising these daily. We will continue weekly dictation and begin to focus on morphological spelling patterns.

Handwriting: cursive letter strings and common words.

How can you help at home? Read, hear your child read aloud and discuss what they are reading. Spelling lists will be issued on a fortnightly basis. These words come from the statutory Year 5/6 list and we require children to practise these. Please talk through the spelling list and help your child to understand their meaning and use the words in context.

RE: We are Philosophers

Why should Hindus (Sanatani's) live a 'good life?' Children will be introduced to the cycle of samsara (which is shared as a concept by Sikhs and Buddhists) and the impact of this on people's lived experience. We will also be visiting a local Hindu temple to learn about life as a Hindu in Britain.

PE: We are Athletes

Outdoor Games: Tag Rugby **Indoor PE:** Gymnastics

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day

5SJ – Tuesday and **Wednesday**

6SP – Tuesday and **Wednesday**

Ask your child:

What have you been today?

How have you been a mathematician or an author today?

What have you enjoyed being today?



Important dates:

- 6.1.25 INSET
- 20.1.25 Visit Apple Tree Centre (Hindu Temple)
- 21.1.25 Young Voices O2
- 29.1.25 Sportshall Athletics Competition
- 5.2.25: Maths workshop and parent drop in
- 11.2.25 Internet Safety Day
- 13.2.25 Gymnastics Competition

Enquiry: Scientists and Engineers

Linnaeus and Darwin - how are they connected?

In this enquiry, children will learn about classification and use this knowledge to understand evolution and inheritance. The work of both Linnaeus and Darwin will be looked at with the aim of encouraging learners to use their historical skills to explain the importance of scientific discovery.

How can you help at home?

- A possible visit to Kew gardens or Wisley.
- A visit to a garden centre looking at different plants and how they can be classified together.
- See how many types of trees you can spot next time you're out for a walk.

Maths: We are Mathematicians

Both Year 5 and 6, will work to consolidate their understanding of multiplication and division. Challenging processes such as long multiplication, short division and long division are introduced. The children will continue to apply these strategies to increasingly complex problems. Later in the term, we begin exploring fractions, decimals and for year 6, percentages.

How can you help at home?

Ensure quick recall of number facts and mental calculation are practised and used in context. Eg. Adding running totals, calculating change and offers. Continue to practise times tables at home as these are the foundations of many concepts within maths. Encourage maths-based games at home:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/mathsgames/hit-the-button>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39>

<https://www.safekidgames.com/logic-games/>

Wellbeing: We are Philosophers

We will be exploring feelings and relationships through the story: Ada's Violin talking about pollution, community, self-esteem & enterprise.

French: We are Linguists

This half term, we will be looking at French Cuisine. We will look at healthy food and drinks as well as exercise and hobbies that support a healthy lifestyle including mental wellbeing.

Computing: We are Engineers

Video production: As engineers, we will be using software to create and edit our own videos.



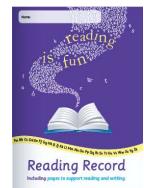
Year 5 and 6 Learning at Home: Spring 1 – Linneaus and Darwin- How are they connected?

Weekly Non-Negotiables

Read five times a week with an adult. Ask an adult to sign your reading record every time you read.

Practise your spellings at least three times a week on Spelling Shed.

Learn your times tables and associated facts at least three times a week on Times Table Rock Stars or on paper, get a parent to record this in your homework diary.



Recommended Reads:

Charlotte's Web, EB White

Run Wild, Gill Lewis

Animal Sidekicks, Macken Murphy & Dragan Kordic

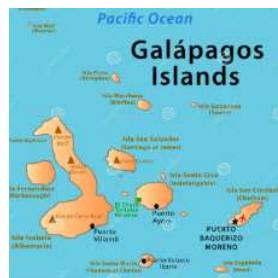
Last: The Story of a White Rhino, Nicola Davies

Amazing Animal Homes, Chris Packham

Alexander Von Humboldt, Little People Big Dreams

Optional Homework:

Create a fact file about the Galapagos Islands- why are they so special?



Optional Homework:

Have a go at recreating some botanical illustrations:



Optional Homework:

Research and present the lifecycle of two different plants or animals. Presentation could be hand written or digital.



Wakehurst
Kew

Optional Homework:

Write a story about an explorer who discovers a new species. Please include pictures.

Optional Homework:

Find out about the 'Liger':



Please bring any optional homework, which you wish to share with your teacher or class, into school by: **Monday 10th February 2025**