

In the Beginning...

Spring Term 2024

Years 5&6



English

Children will begin the new term by 'reading around the text', becoming experts on wolves in order to better understand the class text *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver. They will carry out research using a range of non-fiction texts and articles before writing their own non-chronological report.

Children will read a variety of poems, taking inspiration from language and word choices. We will share classical poetry, including *The Tyger* by William Blake, looking at meaning and creating poetry based on a theme.

Daily lessons include opportunities for children to develop as strong spellers, using the Read Write Inc spelling scheme as well as checking their own spellings as writers. Aspects of grammar are revised 3 times each week and a discrete grammar session each week will focus on aspects of revision as well as year-group specific objectives.

Reading in class occurs daily for each English group and the class text supports key areas of writing. Whole class reading sessions deepen pupils' understanding of the text as well as looking at author technique, linking back to developing children as confident writers. Children are encouraged to read daily, in school time as well as at home, to continue to broaden their reading diet or fiction, non-fiction and poetry and maintain fluency.

Mathematics

Children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills within the core mathematical areas covered over the term. They will also work towards increasing speed and accuracy with the rapid recall of KIRFS, including multiplication and division facts within and beyond 12 x 12.

Year 5

The key areas of learning over the term will include:

- Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
- Geometry
- Measurement

Year 6

The key areas of learning over the term will include:

- Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
- Measurement
- Statistics
- Ratio and Proportion
- Algebra

Science

As **Scientists** we will be covering two topics. Firstly, *Earth & Space*, where children will investigate the Sun, Moon and Earth and develop an understanding of day and night, the four seasons and the phases of the Moon. In the second half of term, we will begin a new topic on *Evolution and Inheritance*, which will involve the discussion of fossils as evidence of prehistoric life. We will explore the work of Darwin by looking at ways in which plants and animals are adapted to their habitats, and the links between offspring and parents.

Geography & History

As **Geographers**, we will be exploring the question 'What is below the Earth's surface?' and learning about the trailblazing seismologist Inge Lehmann whose research changed how we consider the inner workings of the Earth. Children will be taught how the Earth's rotation creates seasons, weather patterns and time zones. We will explore the links between tectonic plates and volcanoes.

As **Historians**, our focus this term will be on the race between the USSR and the US to send the first man to the moon. We shall look at cosmonauts Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova who were respectively the first man and woman in space. In particular, we will consider the challenges Tereshkova faced as a woman in the Soviet Union and how she paved the way for others. The children will then learn about the role astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins played in the moon landing.

RE

Children will explore two big questions over the term:

- Do clothes express belief? (Islam & Sikhism)
- Is the resurrection important to Christians? (Christianity)

Understanding Christianity Units:

- What difference does the resurrection make for Christians? 2b.7

Art

As Artists we will be studying space art, focusing on the work of Peter Thorpe and Wassily Kandinsky. We will then create a mixed media picture of a rocket with an abstract background, a surrealist space collage using perspective drawing and looking at how to use colour to create different moods.

D&T

As **Design Technologists** we will be studying cam mechanisms and the effect different shapes of cam have on movement. We will then use a range of techniques and materials to create a space themed moving toy using at least one cam mechanism.

PSHE

In the first half-term, children will reflect on the importance of their rights as well as their local and global responsibilities. In the second half-term, we will then focus on the emotions and feelings involved in growing up before embarking on a programme of relationship and sex education.

PE

Children will engage in Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) where they will learn to work collaboratively developing motor skills, confidence and competence in the outdoor environment as well as both mental and physical challenges. The phase will also focus on invasion games and improve our tactical understanding in both Tag Rugby and Netball.

Computing

Following the Teach Computing Scheme children will study the following units:

- **Flat-file Databases**- children will create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems. They will use a real-life database to answer a question and present their work.
- **Programming** - children will be introduced to a microcontroller and learn how to connect and program it to control components (including output devices — LEDs and motors).

Music

Children will explore the concept of 'identity' and different ways of making their own music, while studying the work of some of the most influential women in music over the last 100 years. They will sing, play, improvise and compose with the song 'Make You Feel My Love'.

French

Children will be taught to speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity.

Topics for the term include:

- Places in a Town
- Directions
- Shops
- Tourist Information
- Easter Traditions

We will be exchanging letters and sharing work with our partner school.

Curriculum Enrichment

- Science Oxford Planetarium (in school)
- World Day of Prayer (Y5)
- Oxford Museum of Natural History: Evolution Workshop
- RE speaker