

In the Beginning...

Spring Term 2026
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 discussed regularly in context 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, deepen understanding, master comprehension 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: Position and Direction
- 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*, an opportunity to star-gaze by learning more about the Earth and the celestial bodies in our solar system. Starting with an exploration of each planet - from Mercury to Neptune - this unit then explores how scientific ideas surrounding Earth's movement and placement have changed and developed over time. Next, children will be introduced to the key concepts of *Evolution and Inheritance*. They will learn about inherited traits and apply their knowledge to various animals and plants, before being introduced to the work of Mary Anning and Charles Darwin. Children will learn about the fascinating history of the human race and discover links between extinct animals and those which are still living today.

Geography & History

As **Geographers**, children will continue to understand the planet that they live on, through exploring the key ideas of weather and seasons, volcanoes and The Earth in Space. They will explore patterns in weather and seasonal change as well as researching extreme weather and its impact on the planet including making links to global issues including climate change. Our volcanoes study will open discussions on the Earth's crust, tectonic plates and famous volcanoes around the world. live.

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 will 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:

- What is the significance of Karma and Moksha for a Hindu?
Exploring the concepts of Karma, Samsara and Moksha, children will consider reincarnation and its impact.
- How far is the belief in the resurrection important to Christians today?
Children will explore the impact of the resurrection on Christians today, including on attitudes towards death.

Art

As **Artists** we will be studying abstract art, focusing on the work of Peter Thorpe and Wassily Kandinsky. Children will 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** children will be using 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 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 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

As musicians, children will be inspired by the Latin piece *Dona Nobis Pacem*, which focuses on peace. Through the use of Sing Up materials, children will compose, sing a round accurately and in a legato style and identify changes in texture.

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

- Young Voices Concert
- Science Oxford Planetarium (in school)
- World Day of Prayer (Y5)
- Oxford Museum of Natural History: Evolution Workshop

