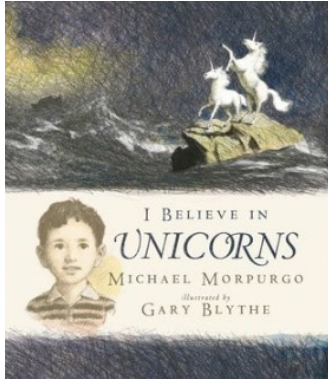


## Years 5 & 6 Shepherd's Class Autumn 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

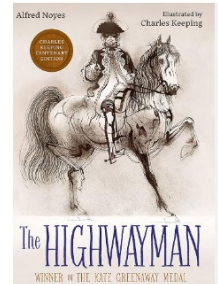
Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you back and hope that you had a good break over the summer holiday. I am looking forward to continuing working with the children in Year 6 again this year as well as getting to know the new Year 5 children who have moved up from Carpenter's Class. We have lots of new exciting topics to cover in the autumn term and I have outlined the details below.



**English** - For our first topic, the children will be studying the book 'I Believe in Unicorns' by Michael Morpurgo. The story is about an eight-year-old boy named Tomas who dislikes reading and stories but is transformed after he hears enchanting tales from a "Unicorn Lady" at his local library. Set against the backdrop of a war-torn Europe, the story explores the power of books and stories to offer hope and a sense of connection during destruction and hardship. When the library is threatened by war, the community must work together to save its collection of books and its magical unicorn, demonstrating the enduring power of storytelling. During this topic, the class will learn what a modern war is like through 'experience' sessions, using these to help them generate powerful language and emotions. They will also learn

how to use grammatical features in sentences, such as semi-colons, relative clauses, rhetorical questions as well as how to generate and write figurative language. Finally, the children will write their own version of the story independently, based on another character's perspective.

For our second topic of the term, the children will be looking at the narrative poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. At the beginning of this unit, the children will learn about the features of narrative poems and research the history and lives of famous highwayman. Following on from this, the class will plan and write a shared narrative poem about another of the Highwayman's famous crimes including features that they have learnt about, such as metaphors, similes, personification, repetition for effect and powerful, descriptive noun phrases.



### **Guided Reading- Titanic (Survivor) by Stephen Davies**

Titanic tells the story of a young boy aboard the 'unsinkable' Titanic. Titanic is supposed to be unsinkable, but when the ship strikes an iceberg in the dead of night, she will sink within three hours! In this unit, the children will develop their reading accuracy and comprehension skills by making inferences and predictions, and justifying opinions through reasoned discussions. The children will learn about distinguishing fact from opinion, summarising main ideas and retrieving information.



### **Geography- Raging Rivers**

In this unit, the children will find out about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. By looking at the features of rivers, and the natural and human ways that rivers change over time, children will explore the life stories of rivers. Children will learn the names and locations of the major rivers of the UK and the world.



**Science** -In the autumn term, our first science topic is 'Global Warming'. During this topic, the children will:

- Gain a simple understanding of global warming and learn what it is and why it is happening.
- Explore the impacts of global warming on living things and think of ways to reduce their own (or the school's) carbon footprint.

In our second topic, 'Properties of Materials', the children will:

- Test everyday materials and group them based on their transparency, hardness and magnetism before linking the properties of materials to their uses.
- Test some everyday materials and group them based on their electrical conductivity, classifying them as conductors or insulators.
- Plan a comparative test to investigate which material is the best thermal insulator.
- Work scientifically to analyse data, make conclusions and evaluate their insulation experiment.



**P.E.** - We will be learning about the skills and tactics involved in the sports of tag rugby and netball.

**Computing** - The children will be following the 'Purple Mash' Computing scheme. In our first unit of 'Online Safety', the children will:

- Gain an understanding of their responsibility to others as well as to themselves when communicating and sharing content online.
- Learn what the SMART rules are and how they should be applied to using technology safely and respectfully.
- Know what sorts of inappropriate content should be reported.
- Understand the positive and negative consequences of technological developments including altering images both in terms of impact upon themselves and impact upon others.
- Be able to explain why citations must be considered when using the work of others.
- Understand what is meant by reliable and can build on their ability to identify reliable content and why it is not a good idea to rely upon only 1 source for information.

In our 'Coding' topic the children will:

- Create more complex programs and understand that there are ways to simplify code to make their programming more efficient.
- Understand what simulations are and can formulate and program an algorithm for an observed traffic light sequence.
- Understand the processes of decomposition and abstraction and apply this knowledge when planning algorithms for a program.
- Include sequence, selection and repetition into code as well as use functions to make their programming more efficient.
- Know what a physical system is and can consider how they can program objects to behave like the would in 'real life'.
- Begin to understand how functions work and learn that there are different variable types and begin to explore how they can be used.
- Learn how to 'read' others' code and predict what will happen in a program which helps them to correct errors.



**RE** - In our first branch - 'Creation and Covenant' - the children will learn about Moses' story, focusing on the two key events of the call and the covenant. They will learn what a covenant is and that God made several covenants throughout history. Also, the children will study the Ten Commandments and how they help human beings live good and happy lives and that Jesus teaches that the most important commandments are to love God and to love other people.

In our second branch - 'Prophecy and Promise' - the children will learn about great kings anointed and chosen in the Old Testament, focusing on the life of David and how Jesus fulfils the promises made to him by God. They will also learn about Psalms and how they are part of the Church's treasury of prayers and are an ancient way of prayer that are still prayed every day.



### **DT- Programming adventures**

In this unit the children will apply their understanding of computing to program a floor robot. They will explore a range of adventure maps and use these to create original designs. As a group, they will research how floor robots move along different types of materials and use this knowledge to create obstacle squares. Children will use appropriate joining methods to make a scale adventure map. They will test and evaluate the effectiveness of another group's obstacle squares.



**Music** - In our music unit this term, the children will be learning about and creating music in the Hip-Hop style, which emerged in the Bronx, New York, during the 1970s, reshaping popular music and cultural expression. During the unit, the children will experiment with drum and bass lines, audio sampling, sound effects, and melody composition. Also, guided by artist-led videos, they will explore the genre's unique elements while composing their own Hip Hop-inspired piece.

### **Homework**

The homework tasks that the children are expected to complete are as follows:

- Read their school reading book (daily)
- Practise spellings (weekly)
- Times table practise (weekly)
- One Maths/English task (weekly)

Homework will be set on a Tuesday and needs to be handed in on Monday morning. The completed homework will be marked on this day, with a reward of a house point for handing it in. The children will receive their book back on Tuesday morning and will then be expected to stick in their own spellings and any homework sheets they may have. On a Tuesday morning, the children will be tested on their spellings and the current level of the Multiples Marathon that they are on.





## P.E.

PE lessons will take place on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has the following kit suitable for both indoor and outdoor sessions:

- A red t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers
- A pair of tracksuit/jogging bottoms
- A hoodie or sweatshirt

We will aim to be outside as much as possible for our P.E. session, so it is important that the children have the items listed above to keep them warm as the weather gets colder. **Please note: in the interests of safety, children with earrings will be expected to remove them.**

If you have any queries or questions, then please feel free to arrange a meeting by contacting the school office.

Kind regards,

Mr J. Causebrook  
Years 5/6 Class Teacher  
Mathematics & P.E. Coordinator

### **Useful websites:**

#### **Mathematics:**

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/free-downloads>

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2/subjects/maths>

#### **English:**

English Grammar: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2/subjects/english-grammar>

#### **Geography:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7w8pg8>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0013vc5/bitesize-daily-79-year-olds-geography-89-year-olds-3-rivers>

<https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/primary/primary-articles/teaching-rivers-at-ks2-resources-from-the-rivers-trust/>