

Years 5 & 6 Shepherd's Class Summer 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all back and hope you had a restful break over the holiday. Coming up over the summer term, we have lots of exciting events going on and some fantastic topics to explore.

English – For our first topic of the term, the children will be continuing their biography unit, where we are researching the life and achievements of David Attenborough and creating a biography about him. They will then research the life and achievements of another famous naturalist in order to write a biography independently.

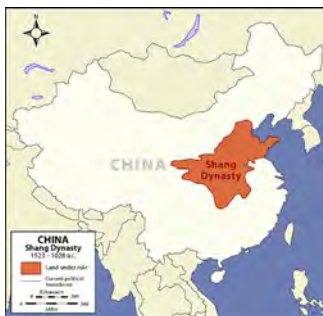


For our second topic of the term, the children will be looking at the narrative poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. At the beginning of this unit, the children will learn about the features of narrative poems and research the history and lives of famous highwaymen. Following on from this, the class 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.

For our final unit, 'Postcard from Prison' the children will be studying the features of informal letters. They will then read different 'twisted' versions of fairy-tales in order to find out about the various villains in the stories. Using what they have learnt, the children will write a postcard from one of these villains, who is now in 'Fairy-tale Prison', recounting what life is like and describing some of the other characters who are imprisoned with them.

Geography- Getting to Grips with Grid References

In this unit the children will understand how to use four-figure and six-figure grid references. They will learn about the purpose of grid reference, use four-figure and six-figure grid references to locate features on a map and apply the use of four-figure and six-figure grid references to an OS map.



History- Shang Dynasty

In this unit the children will learn about the ancient Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-1050 BC) in China's Yellow River Valley. Key topics include the Shang people and their location, the role of the king, their religious beliefs and oracle bones, Shang society and craftsmanship, and the significance of the tomb of Fu Hao, a military leader and priestess. The unit uses maps, artefacts, and primary sources to help children understand daily life, social structures, and the Shang writing system.

Art- Wildlife and birds

In this unit, the children will learn how to use pencil, white pencil, print, make clay tiles and model to create quality art work that shows progression in skills. The children will have the opportunity to explore the work of the sculptor, Brancusi, and the paper designer, Richard Sweeney.

DT- Super-seasonal cooking

In this unit the children will learn about the importance of buying seasonal food. The first part of the unit provides an opportunity for children to learn where, when and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed. Children will then have the chance to sample some spring seasonal food before

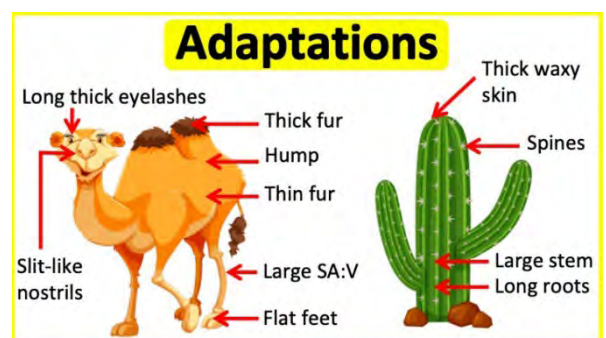
designing their own balanced seasonal meal. They will learn how to cook with the seasonal ingredients following their own recipes and using a wide range of preparation and

cooking techniques. Finally, children will evaluate their product against their design criteria. Children will learn appropriate hygiene rules for handling meat and fish and safe preparation skills.

Science -In the summer term, our first topic is 'Light', where the children will learn how to name and identify simple parts of the human eye and discuss their functions in relation to being able to see objects. They will also explore the idea that some objects emit light while others reflect light. By the end of the topic, the children should identify that light travels from a light source to an object, then to the eye.

For our second topic of 'Variation', the children will be studying how offspring inherit characteristics from their parents, such as hair colour, eye colour and skin colour. They will also explore the concept that other animals inherit characteristics from their parents. Also, they will be given opportunities to look at variation between individuals of the same species and individuals of different species.

In our final topic, 'Adaptations', the children will study how different animals have adapted and evolved over time to live in a certain habitat. They will also look at how different plant species have adapted to live in certain habitats and some of the adaptations that these different plants share. Through studying Charles Darwin and his work, the children will also learn about evolution and the importance of inherited characteristics in the process of natural selection.



P.E. - During the summer term the children will be learning about the skills and tactics involved in the sports of cricket and rounders, as well as pushing and challenging themselves in a range of different athletic disciplines, such as javelin, jumping and running.



Computing - As part of our 'Quizzing' unit the children will create a range of quizzes for users of different ages, choosing the most appropriate platform for the age group. In our 'Micro:bits' unit, the children will learn how to program a micro:bit device. In each lesson, the children will learn how to: Predict... what the code will do; Run... the code to check their prediction; Investigate... trace thought the code to see if they were correct ; Modify... the code to add detail, change actions/outcome; Make... a new program that uses the same ideas in a different way.



Religious Education - In our first topic 'To the Ends of the Earth', the children will study the Sacrament of Confirmation, understanding its links with scripture from the words of the prophets through to the Acts. They will learn that the Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation of the Church and how it recalls the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples at Pentecost. During the unit. The children will also witness how Christians live out their vocation by studying the life

of a saint.

During our second topic 'Dialogue and Encounter', the children will learn that the Bible is not one large volume, but a collection of different writings gathered over time and that, within these writings, there are different types of literature, gathered from different sources, probably including oral accounts, that have been gathered and edited over centuries. They will recognise that the texts that Christians refer to as the Old Testament are texts of the Jewish religion. Though their work they will discover that Christians read the Old Testament in the light of Christ, seeing signs of him in the words, actions, and deeds of the Old Testament and that the Jewish religion does not share this interpretation. In the encounter dimension of this branch, the children will be invited to explore more about the importance of Hebrew, the holy language for Jewish people, and understand how prayer, beliefs and sacred objects form part of Jewish life.

Music - Music this term starts with 'Music and Me', which focuses on inspirational women working in music. Throughout the unit, the children will explore the concept of 'identity' - the various elements that shape us. They will be invited to try out different ways of making their own music, while exploring the work of some of the most influential women in music over the last 100 years. They will learn that music offers a perfect way of exploring and expressing their identity, giving them confidence, power and purpose.



In their second unit, 'Reflect, Replay and 'Rewind', the children will listen to various pieces of classical music, written by different composers throughout history. They will also continue to embed the foundations of the interrelated dimensions of music using voices and instruments through singing, playing instruments within a song, improvising using voices and instruments, composing and, finally, performing the learning that has taken place.

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)
- Mathematics (weekly)



In the summer term, Mathematics homework will be set on a Tuesday and needs to be completed by Monday morning. The children will receive their homework book back on Tuesday morning and will then be expected to stick in their own spellings. On a Tuesday morning, the children will also 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
- A sunhat
- Sun cream

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 cool as the weather gets warmer. **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>

History:

[Shang Dynasty - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#)

Geography:

[Maps - OS map skills - 4th level Geography Revision - BBC Bitesize](#)

[KS2 Geography - BBC Bitesize](#)