

Years 5 & 6 Shepherd's Class Autumn 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

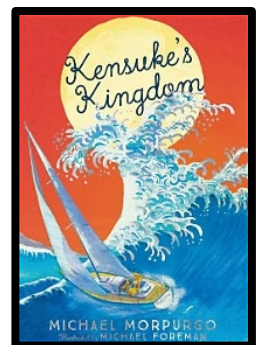
Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you back and hope that you had a good break over the summer holiday. I am looking forward to continuing working with the children in Year 6 again this year as well as getting to know the new Year 5 children who have moved up from Carpenter's Class. We have lots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



English - For our first English unit of the year, 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 the poetic features that they have learnt about, such as metaphors, similes, personification, repetition for effect and powerful, descriptive noun phrases.

In our second topic of the term, we will be creating a non-chronological report about Mount Everest. During the unit the children will: learn what non-chronological report is and the writing features which it incorporates; identify these features in a range of non-chronological reports; gather information about Mount Everest through books, videos, and supervised online research; create headings for each section to clearly define different parts of the topic; plan the structure, including an introduction, several informative sections, and a conclusion; identify what pictures, diagrams, or charts that enhance understanding of the topic; review their work, check for spelling and grammar, and ensure the information is clear and accurate. Finally, for their final piece of writing, the children will complete their own research into another mountain and independently write a non-chronological report, using the skills they have learnt during the unit.

Guided reading-In this unit, the class will read *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. Through whole-class reading and discussion, pupils will explore the adventures of Michael and Kensuke, developing their skills in inference, prediction, summarising and using evidence from the text. The novel provides opportunities to discuss themes such as friendship, survival, courage, resilience and cultural understanding while building pupils' vocabulary and comprehension skills.



Geography - Our geography focus for the autumn term is 'The Amazing Americas'. In this topic, the children will first find out about the continents of North and South America, and the countries that form them. They will also look in more detail at some of the contrasting regions of the Americas, finding out about the landscape, climate and locations of each area. The children will also develop their map and atlas skills and practise reading and writing coordinates. They will learn about the ancient and new wonders of the world, specifically those of the Americas, before researching another natural wonder of the Americas and creating their own presentations to teach others what they have learnt.





History - Our history topic for this term is 'World War II'. During this topic, the children will learn when and why World War II began and find out about the key individuals and countries involved. In addition to this, they will discover all about evacuation; learn what it was like to live with food rationing and explore the contribution made by women to the war effort. Furthermore, they will learn important facts about the Holocaust and investigate events that were key turning points in the war, such as the Battle of Britain and the German invasion of the U.S.S.R. The topic will help children to develop their investigation and evaluation skills; learn to organise information chronologically and understand how past events have helped to shape the world we know today.



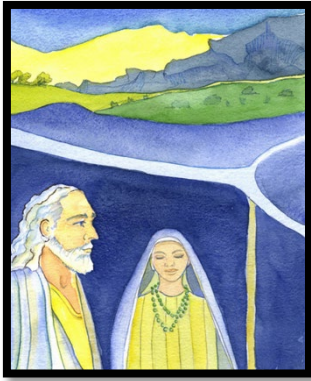
Science -In the autumn term, the children will be studying the topics of 'Forces', 'Space' and 'Global Warming'. In our 'Forces' topic, the children will be learning about friction, air resistance, water resistance and gravity, as well as planning and completing a parachute investigation and testing water resistance by comparing the movement of different shapes through water. In our second topic - 'Space' - we will be looking at the Solar System, the planets, how we get night and day and discover what the Moon's surface and appearance is like, as well as modelling the motion of

the Earth and planets and discovering how ideas about The Solar System have changed over time. Finally, during our 'Global Warming' topic, the children will gain a simple understanding of global warming and learn what it is and why it is happening, before exploring the impacts of global warming on living things and thinking of ways to reduce their own (or the school's) carbon footprint.

P.E. - In our first unit of the Autumn term, the children will be learning how to play the sport of T1 rugby. During the sessions the children will: learn the basic rules and safety expectations of T1 rugby; learn how tagging works and how possession changes; develop skills in how to pass and receive the ball; learn ways to support the ball carrier in attack; work as part of a team to keep possession; make decisions about when to pass and when to run; learn how to defend using a controlled tagging technique; discover how to mark an opponent

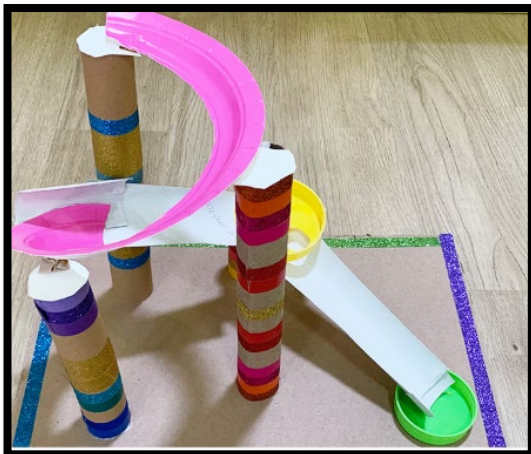


and stay balanced in defence; apply attacking and defending skills in small-sided games; combine passing, support running, tagging and defending in a game; evaluate personal and team performance and identify next steps for progression. For our second unit of the term, the children will be learning how to play hockey. In our sessions the children will: learn the basic rules and safety procedures in hockey; discover how to hold the stick correctly and move with the ball in a controlled way; develop their skills in dribbling the ball with control and changing direction using turning techniques; learn how to pass a ball accurately to a partner and receive a pass in control; develop skills in keeping possession of the ball as a team; learn how move into space to support a teammate; practise shooting accurately towards goal and combine dribbling, passing and shooting in attack; apply hockey skills in a small-sided game, following simple game rules and working as part of a team.



RE -Our first topic is, 'Creation and Covenant', which looks at: the story of *Genesis* and how it expresses beliefs about God, the world, and human beings; Catholic beliefs about baptism; *Laudato Si* and what it takes to be good stewards of planet Earth; famous Catholic Scientists. In our second topic, *Prophecy and Promise*, the children will learn about: the importance of women in the Old Testament; why Miriam is a 'true protagonist of salvation history'; Mary as the fulfilment of Old Testament Promises; using theological language to describe and explain the belief that Mary became the 'Mother of God'; how and why the Magnificat prayer forms radical expectations of the Messiah; the life of women today who are responding to God's call in their life.

Art - In our 'South American Art' topic, the children will: learn about how to make clay monkeys; make picture puzzles using symbols; make dream catchers; draw an important person; create a collage and make traditional drums. They will also have the opportunity to explore the work of South American artists Frida Khalo, Joaquin Torres Garcia, Leonora Carrington, Diego Rivera, Beatriz Milhazes and Carlos Paez Vilaro.



Design and Technology - In our topic "Marbulous Structures" the children will engage in hands-on activities where they can explore engineering and design principles by creating marble runs. During the unit the children will: discover how structures are built and understand the importance of stability and balance; use their imagination to design marble runs, experimenting with different ideas and solutions; encounter challenges that will require critical thinking and problem-solving to overcome; work in groups, learning to share ideas and completing tasks as a team; observe gravity, motion, and speed, getting a foundational understanding of these physics principles; build and test structures to help improve their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Music - Samba

Programme Overview: Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will participate in weekly Samba Drumming lessons delivered by specialist music teachers from Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) as part of the First Access Programme. Sessions will take place every Friday from 9:00am to 10:00am throughout the academic year. The programme is designed to provide all pupils with high-quality, whole-class instrumental music tuition and will meet the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music for Key Stage 2.



Curriculum Coverage: Through the Samba Drumming programme, pupils will:

- Play and perform confidently as part of an ensemble.
- Develop an understanding of rhythm, pulse, tempo, dynamics, and musical structure.
- Learn a range of Samba drumming techniques using authentic percussion instruments.

- Read and follow rhythmic notation.
- Listen to, review, and evaluate musical performances.
- Explore the cultural origins and traditions of Brazilian Samba music.
- Develop teamwork, cooperation, concentration, and performance skills.
- Create, rehearse, and improve group performances.
- Build confidence through regular opportunities to perform to their peers and wider audiences.

Intended Outcomes: By the end of the academic year, pupils will have:

- Developed practical instrumental skills through sustained musical learning.
- Gained experience of performing within a percussion ensemble.
- Increased musical understanding and appreciation of world music traditions.
- Met the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum expectations for performing, composing, listening, and appraising music.

The NMPAT First Access Samba Drumming Programme will therefore serve as the primary music curriculum delivery for Year 5 and Year 6 during the allocated teaching time, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the statutory music curriculum through specialist-led provision.

Computing-

This unit introduces children to text-based coding through the use of Python. Children will learn some of the key language rules for Python. By the end of the unit, children will have outputted text to the screen, used loops to repeat code and made a sprite move by coding it.



Key Learning

- To understand that Python is a text-based coding language and enter simple commands.
- To use Python to perform mathematical calculations.
- To be able to use repetition and Python library functions.
- To understand how Python in Pieces can be used to program a graphical user interface.

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)
- Mathletics (weekly)

In the autumn term, Mathletics homework will be set on a Tuesday afternoon and needs to be completed by the following Tuesday morning. The children will receive their homework book back on Wednesday morning and will then



be expected to stick in their own spellings. On a Wednesday, the children will also be tested on their previous week's spellings and the current level of the Multiples Marathon that they are on.



P.E.

PE lessons will take place on a Tuesday 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/z72f3j6>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsw4kty/articles/zp9sydm>

History:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zjnyscw>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zjc8cqt>