UKS2 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Our topics this half term are 'Ancient Greece and Ancient Maya' and 'Materials: States of Matter and Classifying Big and Small'.

English 

This half term we will be focusing on narrative and the Iron Man by Ted Hughes. Lessons will concentrate on writing with the focus of construction of sentences. These lessons will then be followed by an independent writing task.

Year 6 will be completing a novel-based scheme of work during English lessons. They will be writing for different purposes including narratives, descriptions, instructions and gadget explanation texts. The children will also learn how to use a range of advanced punctuation (semicolons, colons, inverted commas, dashes, hyphens and commas) and are attempting to include the full range of punctuation in their writing each week.

Enjoy reading a story to your child at bedtime!

Maths 

This half term the children will be learning about place value up to 1,000,000. They will be developing fluency with these numbers by partitioning and recognising between which two multiples a number lies. The children will develop their understanding of number by recognising a number's position on a number line and identify numbers up to 1,000,000. They will then develop their understanding of rounding numbers, with particular focus on 6-digit numbers. They will also have the opportunity to apply the formal written methods of addition and subtraction to numbers with up to five digits. As we are following a mastery approach, the children will be encouraged to use concrete apparatus and pictorial representations to support their learning.

In year 6 children will extend their knowledge of numbers from within 1,000,000 to within 10,000,000. They will look at place value, ordering and comparing numbers, rounding, number lines and negative numbers. The children will also use the formal columnar methods for addition and subtraction including with real-life contexts. They will also use their knowledge of the four operations to consider specific properties of numbers.

Count on and BACK with your child to support them by becoming confident with using larger numbers – numbers up to 1,000,000.

Science 

Our science topic for this half term is 'Materials: States of Matter'. We will define the terms 'mixture, sieving, filtering, solution, dissolve and evaporation' and name some common examples and explain how mixtures can be separated.
We will describe the effect of temperature and identify when sieving, filtering and evaporating should be used.

Can your child identify when you might need to separate mixtures and which method they would use?

The year 6 science topic this half term is 'Classifying Big and Small'. We will define the term 'organism' and name the seven life processes of all living things. We will also describe the work of Carl Linnaeus and the characteristics of animals and flowering plants, as well as defining 'micro-organism'.

History 

The children will be learning about life in Ancient Greece. They will learn about significant people, places and events from Ancient Greece. Compare daily life in Ancient Greece with modern day lifestyles. They will consider broader historical context, particularly with regards to the expansion of the Ancient Greek empire and lasting legacy and become familiar with historical sources, debates and accurate vocabulary relating to Ancient Greece.



Encourage your child to tell you what they have learned about the Greeks and their way of life.

In year 6, children will be learning about the Maya Civilisation. They will gain an overview of significant people, places and events from the Maya Civilisation. They will explore how the geography of the Maya area impacted trade, daily life and the growth and decline of the civilisation. They will consider broader historical context and draw links with British history and other familiar aspects of world history.

R.E. 

Pupils will learn about what Christians believe God is like, exploring key texts from the Bible, using ways of knowing that theologians use. They will study passages to work out some ways the Bible says that God is both holy and loving. Pupils will learn how to use key vocabulary such as 'omnipotent, omniscient and eternal' to describe the Christian view of God. Pupils will be able to explain that for most Christians, getting to know God is like getting to know a person.

Computing 

We will continue to learn using Purple Mash to code. Children will learn about the importance of simplifying code, as well as how tags, functions and different variable types can be used within a program. They will understand some ways that code can be simplified so that it is easier to read and runs more efficiently.



Encourage your child to talk and show you what they do online and discuss with them what to do if they are unsure or feel uncomfortable.

Art

This half term in art we will be exploring the unit of Drawing: depth, emotion and movement. The children will investigate how drawing can express emotion, movement and depth, inspired by the work of Charlie Mackesy and Elizabeth Catlett.

Music

This half term, the children will explore the genre of rock and roll music through singing, instrumental playing, composition and improvisation, and listening and appraising. Children will learn about different instruments that typically play in a rock and roll band and their role within the band; exploring lead and backing vocals, lead guitar and bass guitar.

P.E.



The children are partaking in Netball and Fitness throughout this half term.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Year 5 & 6	Netball Fitness	Basketball Tag Rugby

Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit – **plain red or white t-shirt and black shorts/jogging bottoms, earrings removed if possible or taped over and hair tied up on their allocated PE days.**

Values/PSHE

We are working as a school on our school Values along with our Golden Rules of showing 'Readiness, Respect & Responsibility. The whole school values will be: 1st half: Resilience

Within PHSE this half a term, we will be looking at My healthy self: How can I support my mind and body as I grow? The children will understand how everyday choices can support physical and emotional wellbeing by exploring nutrition, physical activity and self-regulation.



Please help your child work on 'Responsibility & Readiness' by encouraging them to maintain their attendance & punctuality (8.50am in their line on the playground) and reminding them to check they have their book bag, water bottle, and reading book each day.

Year 5 homework: The children have been given an Autumn Term homework menu, so please have fun supporting your child completing these. We would like the children to complete three of these tasks by **Wednesday 21st October.**

Year 6 homework: The children will be given one piece of English and one piece of maths weekly to complete. The homework will be given out on a **Wednesday** and it needs to be returned on the **Monday.**

Reading – Listen to your child read as often as you can. Discuss the story, characters and meaning of new words. Try to ask them questions about what they have read to check their understanding.

Dreambox – **For Year 5 only** – this is an online reading platform that has been introduced this year. Please encourage your child to use dreambox at least 3x a week – this will support them with their reading comprehension.

Spellings – We are introducing an online platform for the children to support the children with their spellings through play games. All children have been given an EdShed login. New words/spellings will be given each week for the children to practice at home through their EdShed login. Please encourage your child to work through the tasks/assignments set for them. Thank you.

Times tables – The children need to continue to practice their times table to support their work within Maths. We encourage the children to play TTRockstars at home. Logins are in the children's reading records with their Purple Mash and EdShed logins as well. Please encourage and have fun.

PE Days-

Year 5 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6 – Wednesday & Thursday

Thank you for your continued support.

If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

UKS2 Team