



January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you've had a restful and fun festive period. It has been so lovely to be with the children this first week back – they look rested and refreshed!

## Curriculum

**English** – Our focus text this half term is *Varmints* by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. This is a visually exciting story in the fantasy genre. The children will explore, discuss and debate interesting and challenging themes, such as human impact on the natural world. This unit will focus on developing the children's creative writing skills.

**History** – Progressing directly on from our learning about Anglo Saxon Britain, our next topic is: Viking Britain. We will learn about the Vikings' desire to conquer the kingdoms of Britain; Viking rulers and laws; how the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia united to stand against the Viking invaders, and we will learn about the reign of Aethelflaed as 'Lady of Mercia'.

**Geography** – Our next topic is 'Migration'. We will learn about internal and international migration, and the 'push' and 'pull' factors involved in this. We will learn about temporary migration, exploring the possible reasons for this. There will be a particular focus on learning what 'refugee' means, and we will find out about the lives of children living in a refugee camp.

**Science** – We are learning about 'Living Things & Their Habitats' this half term. Our focus areas will include: the development of mammals, metamorphosis, and why there is variation amongst living things.

**Maths** – All maths groups will be doing units on fractions and a further multiplication and division unit. You will find relevant activities on MyMaths to help support you to do further practice with your child at home. Please do also remember to refer to our calculation policy on the school website [link](#) (for Year 5, scroll down to page 27), to see how we teach multiplication and division written methods.

**Times Tables** - For children in all maths groups, we would thoroughly recommend doing lots of times tables practice at home. Quick recall of times tables facts will help your child tremendously when tackling all areas that they will encounter this half term. There is an expectation in Year 5 for children to know all the times tables. Please see the new Home Learning sheets for games/websites that can help support times tables practice.

**Religions and worldviews** – This term, our topic is all about making moral choices. We will be exploring and discussing morality and moral dilemmas.

**Reading** - We continue with our small group guided reading sessions.

**Music** – This half term, we will be doing a unit all about Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony. At school, we are using a performance by LSO, here is the link in case children would like to listen again at home! [LSO performing Beethoven's 5th Symphony](#).

**PSHE** – We will continue with the topic: ‘Family and Relationships’. There will be lessons focusing on the topics of: self-respect, bullying, and stereotyping. We will discuss what bullying is; different types of bullying; the impact of bullying; the responsibilities of bystanders, and also how to get help. Children will learn what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes are unfair, negative or destructive.

**Computing** – We will learn about music programming, using Scratch. Alongside this, we will continue to teach children about how to stay safe online.

**PE** – The children will be doing a gymnastics unit focusing on partner composition. They will also be doing a games unit focusing on ball handling skills.

**Author visit** – We are excited to be welcoming award-winning author, Benjamin Dean to talk about his new book ‘The Boy Who Fell from the Sky’, on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The book has been described as an otherworldly adventure story, which explores the theme of friendship. If you would like to get a signed copy on the day, please order through Pickled Pepper Books, using this Coleridge School link on ParentHub.

**Dates for your diary**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January:** Sibling photos

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January:** INSET day (school is closed for all children)

**School Trip to the Science Museum:**

**5P:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

**5O:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**5B:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

**5R:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Classroom visit**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 8:50-9:05am**

We look forward to having another busy and productive half term!

Yours sincerely,

The Year 5 Team