



# Year 5 Autumn term 2 Curriculum Newsletter



## WRITING

## READING



**Kensuke's Kingdom** by Michael Morpurgo  
 In *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo, we follow the exciting story of Michael, a boy who is washed up on a remote island after falling from his family's boat. There he meets Kensuke, a mysterious man who has been living on the island for many years. The story explores themes of friendship, survival, trust, and respect for nature. Through reading this novel, children develop key comprehension skills such as predicting, summarising, inferring characters' feelings and motivations, and using evidence from the text to support their ideas. They also discuss the author's language choices and how these create atmosphere and emotion.

## DATES AND INFORMATION:



### Dates for this term:

- 7<sup>th</sup> November - Flu vaccines
- 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November - Book fayre
- 28<sup>th</sup> November - Black Country Museum trip
- 5<sup>th</sup> December - Mufti- PACT Bottle raffle donations
- 11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> December - Pantomime
- 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party Afternoon.

**PE Days: Wednesday and Thursdays**

**Non-fiction (Persuasive)**  
 Plastic Pollution - In this unit, pupils are learning to craft persuasive pitches about **plastic pollution**—a global issue that impacts our environment, wildlife, and future generations. They are exploring how writers use **rhetorical questions** to engage the audience, **modal verbs** (such as *must*, *should*, and *could*) to express urgency and possibility, and **emotional appeals** to inspire action and empathy.

**Narrative (Short film) The present / Narrative**  
 The Snowman by Raymond Briggs  
 In this unit, students are exploring narrative writing through **The Present** and **The Snowman** by Raymond Briggs. They are learning to use **similes**, **subordinating and relative clauses**, and **dialogue** to add depth, detail, and emotion to their stories. By the end, students will create their own engaging narratives inspired by these touching tales.

## MATHS

### Maths: Multiplication and Division

In this unit, children will begin by developing their understanding of multiples, common multiples, factors and common factors, recognising what they are and how they are found. Following this, children will learn about prime numbers and how they are different to composite numbers. Children will then investigate square and cube numbers. Children will also learn how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000 and use this knowledge to multiply and divide by multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000

## SCIENCE

### Science: Properties of materials

In this science unit, children explore the properties of everyday materials and how these make them useful. They investigate materials based on features such as hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity, and magnetism. They learn which materials dissolve to form solutions and how to separate mixtures using filtering, sieving, and evaporation. Through practical investigations and fair tests, they discover why materials like wood, metal, and plastic are chosen for particular purposes.



## HISTORY

In this topic, children learn about the Roman invasion of Britain and its lasting impact on our country. They explore why the Romans came, what life was like before and after their arrival, and how Roman rule changed towns, roads, buildings, and daily life. Children also find out about key figures such as Julius Caesar and Boudica, and consider what evidence helps us understand the past. By the end of the unit, they will understand how the Romans shaped Britain and how their influence can still be seen today.



## WAYS TO HELP AT HOME:



Continue to practice times tables up to 12 x 12, including the related division facts.

Discuss with your child what they have read; can they summarize the story? Can they make predictions? Can they discuss the authors choice of words?

## Painting – Portraits

In this unit, children explore how artists use line, colour, and tone to show emotion, movement, and depth in their work. They experiment with different types of lines and marks to create feeling and focus in their drawings and learn how tone can make artwork look more realistic. Children study how artists express emotion through their work and apply these ideas in their own sketchbooks. They also design and create their own prints, carefully planning their compositions and reflecting on how to improve their final pieces.

## ART

## PSHE

### Valuing Difference

In this unit, children learn to recognise and celebrate differences between people, including those related to religion and culture. They discuss how diversity can be positive while understanding that differences can sometimes lead to conflict. The topic also explores the influence of social media, helping children think about how online posts may not always reflect real life and how to use social media safely and responsibly.



## HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on **Fridays** and given in the following **Wednesday**.

Reading (5 x 10 mins /week)  
**Spelling shed (3x 10 mins/week)**  
**TT Rockstars (3x 10 mins/week)**  
A piece of maths (40 mins per week)

## TEXTS COVERED THIS TERM:

