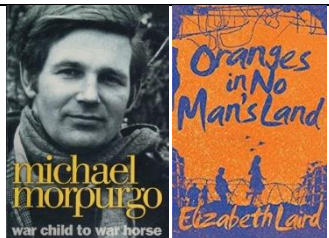


Year 5 and 6 Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 2026-27

This half term in Year 5/6 our main topic is:

Early Islamic Civilisation

Autumn 1 2026	
English 	In English, we will begin the year by studying prolific author Michael Morpurgo and reading his short story 'Daredevil' before composing a biography on his works. This will be followed by the introduction of our brand-new text, 'Orange in No Man's Land' which follows the trials and tribulations of a young girl during the Lebanese civil war. The children will delve into empathy through a series of diary entries. 
Maths 	In Maths, Year 5 children will continue to develop their knowledge of the place value before moving onto the four calculations. Our Year 6 children will continue to develop their knowledge of place value up to ten millions before consolidating their knowledge of the four calculations and experimenting with long calculation methods.
Science 	In Science, the children will be exploring the science of light and how we see things. All children will be investigating different light sources and how shadows are formed before completing some experiments of their own.
History 	This half term, our learning will focus mainly on the history of Early Islamic civilisation. We will be transported to the Arabian Peninsula during the 'Islamic Golden Age' to understand how and why the city of Baghdad was founded and learn all about the silk roads. We will then draw on our knowledge from Lower Key Stage 2 to compare the Islamic civilisation to their contemporaries: the Anglo Saxons.
Art/DT 	In Art and DT, we will be exploring what it means to be an architect and studying the revolutionary designs of the British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid. The children will learn about the design process and study some of Zaha's work before embarking on their own Hadid-inspired designs.
Physical Education 	In indoor PE, children will be developing their reaction and response time when using a ball to ensure greater accuracy and control, through playing the games 'throw-tennis' and 'end-ball'. In outdoor PE, children will continue to develop their agility and co-ordination in Netball.
PSHE 	In PSHE, children will be learning about Keeping Safe and Managing Risk. Pupils will consider how to remain safe online, what grooming is and the difference between safe and unsafe adults including reminding ourselves of the support networks we have in place to keep us safe. Further information will be sent on a separate letter regarding the content covered and resources used before teaching of this unit commences.
RE	In RE, the children will be exploring the question 'What values to people live by?' The unit focuses on how moral values, religious rules, and non-religious worldviews guide human behaviour, daily lifestyle choices, and how diverse communities can live well together.
Music 	In Music, all children will be learning to play the ukelele on a termly rotational basis – this half-term, it will be the Creative Caimans completing this learning. Our Tenacious Toucans and Dazzling Dolphins will consider how music connects us with our past through developing ensemble skills and singing songs "You're my best friend" and "Singing, Swinging Star."
Computing 	We will be focussing on developing our understanding of internet safety and ways to keep safe when online. The learning will focus around the 'Be Internet Legends' pillars of 'Be Internet Sharp, Alert and Brave. Lessons will include how to create and safeguard passwords, how to retain our privacy when online (including social media) and what healthy online behaviour looks like.
Spanish 	In Spanish, pupils will be learning about 'La Fecha' meaning the date. They will consolidate their number knowledge to 31, learn the 7 days of the week, learn the 12 months of the year and ask and answer the questions ¿Qué fecha es hoy? (What is the date today?) and ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?

Dates for your diary!



Thursday 10th September

Whitby Information Evening 5.30pm

Wednesday 23rd September

Weardale Information Evening
5.30pm

Friday 25th September

15-minutes extra play for pupils who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Bring in the completion certificate to show participation.

Wednesday 30th September

Year 5/6 Trip to Cartwright Hall – Art of Ancient Islamic Civilisation

Wednesday 14th October

FROGS Autumn Disco.

Thursday 15th October

Individual school photographs.

Wednesday 21st October

Parent/carer consultation evenings.

Thursday 22nd October

Parent/carer consultation evenings.

Friday 23rd October

FROGS non-uniform day for tombola prizes and bake sale. Last day of the half-term.



Celebration Assemblies

These will continue to take place **fortnightly on a Friday at 9am in person in the school hall.**

As usual, you will receive a text on the Wednesday if your child is going to be presented with an award on the Friday of that week.

PE Days



Y5/6 Dazzling Dolphins

Thursday

Y5 Tenacious Toucans

Thursday

Y6 Creative Caimans

Friday

Please ensure child comes to school dressed in their PE kit, appropriate to the weather conditions. **Remember to ensure these are plain green hoodies or jumpers, black jogging bottoms and green t-shirts that do not display any large logos or badges, except for the school logo.**

Long hair needs to be tied up, and ear studs removed or covered with tape.

A small number of pupils will be invited to attend swimming on Thursdays. You will be notified of this via Arbor if this applies to your child.

Rules and Routine Reminders

Children need to bring their book bags, planners, a water bottle, lunch box and snack into school with them every day.

Toucans & Caimans will come through the side door adjacent to the main entrance and store their belongings in the cloakroom.

Dolphins will enter through the side door in the corner and store their belongings in the classroom.

You have 5 minutes to drop off in a morning **(between 8:40 and 8:45am).**

Pick up for children is at **3:15pm** from the main playground.

If you wish for your child to walk home or meet you at a designated point outside of the school grounds, please complete the Walking Home permission at your earliest convenience via Arbor.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are only permitted if your child walks to and from school independently and you have filled in a Walking Home form. Mobile phones are signed in by the class teacher at the beginning of the day and stored safely in the school office until the end of the day, when they are returned.

Homework & supporting your child at home:



Homework is set on a Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. In line with our homework policy, we set a maths and English activity (which may include reading, writing or spelling) for children to complete in their homework book.

Y6 pupils may receive additional homework to support with SATs practise.

TTRS

In addition to homework set in books, we strongly encourage pupils to play TTRS daily, with a minimum requirement of 15 minutes play on 'Studio' for homework.

Children's updated login details for TTRS are glued inside their planner.

www.ttrackstars.com

Daily Reading

Please continue to regularly listen to your child read at home and encourage them to use them to complete their own comments in their reading record. Pupils who read 3 times in a week at home will receive a house point and pupils who read 5 times in week will receive 2 house points.

Weekly **KIRF Target** practise

Year 5:

- 1) Be able to count up and down in thousands.
- 2) Read and write Roman Numerals to 1000.
- 3) Know number bonds to 1000.

Year 6:

1) Count forwards and backwards from any given number, in any steps, crossing boundaries and into negative numbers.

2) Add positive numbers to negative numbers (e.g calculate a rise in temperature $-7 + 9 =$).