


**Year 5 and 6**  
**Autumn 1 2021**





## Topic - Maya

This unit of work will teach students all about the ancient Maya civilisation. The children will learn who the ancient Maya people were and where and when they lived. They will use maps and atlases to locate Maya cities and identify countries in Mesoamerica. In addition to this they will learn about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and find out more about some of the many gods they worshipped. The children will also learn about the Maya number system and have the opportunity to read and write Maya numbers and solve number problems. They will learn about the Maya writing system too and practise writing words using logograms and syllabograms in the hieroglyphic style of the ancient Maya people. The children will learn about the work of the explorers John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood and have the opportunity to analyse historical pictures of the cities they discovered. They will also learn about the types of food eaten by the ancient Maya people and they will find out about the significance of corn and chocolate, arguing which was most important in a class debate.



## Science

Animals including humans

Children will build on their knowledge and understanding of different systems within the body. They will research the parts and functions of the circulatory system. They will focus on how nutrients are transported around the human body. Children will explore how a healthy lifestyle supports the body to function and how different types of drugs affect the body.

## Maths

Pupils will learn different mental methods for addition and subtraction, investigate the properties of shapes, learn multiplication and division methods and work with fractions.

## English

We will start the term looking at biographies and focus on authors such as M. Morpurgo and R. Dahl. We will use texts from these authors to look at noun phrases and complex sentences. Next, we will explore a classic but challenging piece of fiction - The Jungle Book. We will write our own diary entries and use conjunctions.

## RE

Children will focus on aspects of worship across different faiths. They will explore what worship is, what it means to religious believers and how believers worship differently. Children will consider different forms of worship and work independently, and with others, to share their learning about worship through music, art and objects. They will finish the unit by discussing freedom to worship around the world.

## Spanish

Children will apply previous skills and knowledge of topic areas such as spellings, hobbies, people and pets. They will have a chance to recap their prior knowledge from Year 3 and Year 4. They will express opinions and learn to talk about the future in the context of career ambitions. Each lesson includes detailed teacher guidance where necessary and all vocabulary is supported by sound files for correct pronunciation.

## Computing

This unit builds on the previous unit in Year 4 using Scratch to build and edit algorithms for simple games. The unit is designed to help children develop their skills in writing their own algorithms as well as editing and debugging existing codes.

## Art and Design

This South American Art unit will teach children 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.

## PE

The children will learn how to pass and catch the ball using a range of techniques. Defensively, they will develop their skills of marking including one-on-one marking. Offensively, they will learn how to get free from a defender using skills such as the dodge and straight lead run and the skill of pivoting. They will also learn the technique for shooting and how to do a toss-up. Different netball rules will be covered each week and there will also be a focus on playing as part of a team and evaluating their own and others' performances.

## PSHE

Children will focus on relationships. Children will identify who their VIPs are within their families and friendship groups and how important kindness and respect are within these relationships.

# General Information

## Year 5/6

### Reading

It is recommended that children read for a minimum of 15 minutes daily, which can be written in to your child's reading record. Reading regularly can not only improve word recognition and fluency, but can also assist children in their writing during class.

### PE

P.E. will be on Friday this year so please ensure children attend school wearing their P.E. kits. For P.E. children need to bring suitable clothing for the British weather as we will attempt to be outside providing it is not raining heavily. Tracksuit bottoms and fleeces can be worn. Please refer to the school email for a full list of clothing options. Can I please also ask that children bring suitable footwear in for sports.

### Homework

Homework will be set daily and is to be completed for the following day (unless specified otherwise). The work set will vary from maths, English, verbal reasoning and even afternoon topic work. Occasionally there will be longer projects or presentation pieces which will require more time and therefore longer deadlines.