

# Year 5 Autumn Term – Curriculum Newsletter

**As readers**, we will focus on three books where history, maps and myths take centre stage and powerful characters negotiate their place in the world: *A Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave, the poetry collection *Being Me* by Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow and Laura Mucha and the historical novel *Treason* by Berlie Doherty. The children will be provided with copies in class so we can enjoy the books together.



In our weekly reading lessons, we will also read extracts from other novels and explore similarities and differences so we can begin to think about genres such as magic realism and historical fiction. We will analyse extracts from non-fiction texts such as Tim Marshall's *Prisoners of Geography* and children's guidebooks to Hampton Court, practising how to retrieve information to consolidate our topic learning and discussing genre features.

**As writers**, we will create a range of texts in response to our focus texts. We will analyse our focus texts to see how these writers create plot, character and suspense and use language creatively and magpie their literary and stylistic devices to improve our own writing. We will write in role as characters, persuade our characters to make the right choices and debate their views. To 'Make a Difference', we will join David Attenborough in his quest to protect Richmond Park by creating a family-oriented information leaflet to support his 'Tread lightly' campaign. We will expand our punctuation repertoire and explore new grammatical features which will make our writing more mature and revise the spelling rules learnt in Year 3 and 4.

In handwriting, we will be revising forming the lowercase letters correctly and ensure that we consistently use the correct handwriting joins.

**As mathematicians**, we have started the year by exploring decimal numbers, looking at tenths as fractions and decimals, and will continue to explore decimals up to three decimal places. We are using addition and subtraction problems with decimals to consolidate our fluency in mental and formal written addition and subtraction before moving on to adding and subtracting increasingly complex numbers by using a written method to add and subtract numbers including decimal numbers. We will solve problems involving lengths, mass and money. We will then be applying our knowledge of decimals to look at solving problems involving money, including working out how much change we will get when we buy something. We will then be learning about negative numbers, plotting them on a number line and calculating the difference across zero.

In our daily Mastering Number sessions, we will deepen our understanding of multiplicative thinking and revise the times tables up to 12x12.

**As scientists**, we will continue to improve our investigation skills by planning and carrying out a range of experiments; taking measurements; recording data; evaluating and analysing the data and presenting our data and conclusions clearly. We will examine the properties of different materials, including their response to magnets and their thermal and electrical conductivity, to explore their suitability for different purposes. We will learn about soluble and insoluble materials, solve challenges about separating mixtures and examine whether physical and chemical changes are reversible or irreversible.

**As geographers**, we will explore two continents: North and South America. We will look at human and physical characteristics of both continents, explore climate, fauna and flora and assess the impact of human activity. We will zoom in on the Caribbean and make comparisons between the region and our local area in the UK.

**As historians**, we will study Hampton Court under Henry VIII, exploring the influence of the Tudors in our locality. We will explore how our neighbour Henry shaped our nation as well as our borough. We will find our own place in the chronology of British and European history, compare life under Henry VIII with our own experiences of life in a constitutional monarchy and learn about Henry's role in the creation of the Church of England.

**As artists**, we are learning about typography and map-making, designing our own typefaces and creating our own maps of fictional worlds with three-dimensional elements.

**As designers**, we will develop our sewing skills and evaluate which stitch works best for which purpose and how to join pieces of felt effectively, creating our own tapestry of Hampton Court Palace.

**As musicians**, we will look at standard and non-standard musical notation, including staff notation and letter notation.

**As theologians**, we will be learning about the importance of the Torah in Judaism. After half term, we will explore what Buddhism teaches us about the human experience.

**As athletes**, we will work hard to improve our general fitness and wellbeing by completing the bleep test challenge every week. In our Friday swimming lessons, we will work towards our end of primary school goal to perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations and swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres.

**As members of our community**, we will focus on healthy relationships. We will explore what healthy friendships look like and how we can nurture and maintain them and adjust to change in our friendship groups. We will learn to identify unhealthy relationships, discuss what to do when a friendship makes us uncomfortable and learn to identify discrimination, bullying, peer pressure and unsafe relationships. We will discuss exit strategies, assertive communication, consent and when to ask for help.

**As computer scientists**, we will look at computer systems around us and how systems communicate. We will explore how to search the internet effectively and safely and reflect on how we can live our school values in the online communities we belong to. After half term, we will develop our video editing skills, creating our own campaign videos in support of Attenborough's endeavours to raise awareness of climate change.

## Enrichment

Autumn 2 – Trip to Richmond Park (TBC)  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Trip to Richmond Synagogue

## School Value Focus – Responsibility

In order to 'Make a Difference', we will take up Sir David Attenborough's challenge to look after our planet and make it a safer place for people and animals across the globe to live on. We will start by campaigning in our local community to respect and treasure Richmond Park and by creating videos about climate change.