

# Year 5/6 Spring 2: Fantastic Beasts

Dear Parents and carers,

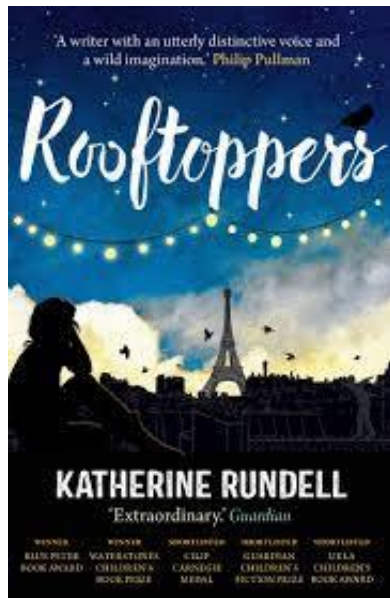
Somehow, we're halfway through the year! We still have plenty to do and lots to look forward to: read on to find out what is coming up.

This half term, our text driver will be the wonderful *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell. This is an incredibly popular book and if your child owns a copy already, please bring it in to school for the duration of this unit.

Kind Regards,

The Year 5/6 team

Mr Todd, Mrs Barker, Miss Stanton, Miss Cook and Mr Jones

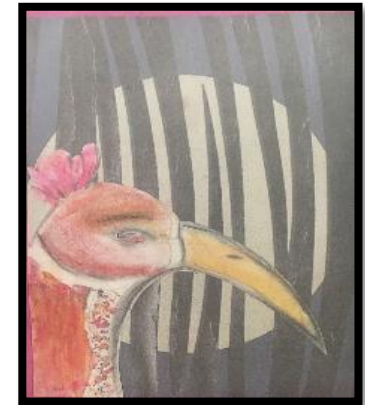


## Theme

This half term, we will be learning about Evolution and Inheritance, considering how the fantastic beasts that inhabit our planet have evolved to become as they are. We will learn in Science about the theory of evolution and see how fossils can help teach us about the past. We will look at how characteristics can be passed down from generation to generation and how life cycles of animals and plants differ.

As we are discussing evolution and inheritance, this part of the national curriculum can sometimes prove challenging for some children with different family circumstances to their peers. If you think that your child may be affected, please contact your class teacher who will be able to adapt lessons to be considerate of others while still teaching the required curriculum.

We will also be studying Darwin's journey around the world, comparing the locations he visited on board the HMS Beagle, as well as using a range of media and techniques to produce art 'Fantastic Beast' artwork such as the example at the top right of this page.



## English

English will be based around *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell. Children will be writing discussion texts, survival guides to living on the rooftops in France and writing suspenseful narratives.

## Maths

In Maths, we will continue working through the curriculum focusing on algebra, statistics and fractions in year 6. In year 5, children will be learning fractions and measurements before going back to revise all 4 operations.

**SATs:** Year 5 will continue to work their way through this theme across Spring 2. Because of SATs, year 6 will pause halfway through to start revision activities before coming back to finishing this theme later.

## Key notices:

- Children should bring their planners in everyday and these will be checked at least once a week by the class teacher.
- Year 6 will visit the library on Thursday afternoons and Year 5 Library Days will be Friday,
- **PE days are the following:**  
Rabbits: Thursday and Friday  
Hedgehogs: Wednesday and Thursday  
Eagle: Wednesday and Friday
- Woodpecker: Wednesday and **Thursday\***

These days may occasionally change so please make sure your child's PE kit is labelled and in school every day. If your child cannot undertake PE for any reason, they should bring a note explaining why.

**\*Please note that the PE day for Woodpeckers has changed.**

# Year 5/6 Home Learning

Please ask your teacher if you need a new code for accessing Seesaw!

## **Spellings**

Spellings will be tested every Friday, with the new words given out after the test.

There will be between 8-10 words that follow the rule we are looking at in class, building on the spelling sessions in school that week.

The words tested may not be exactly as the words given out but will require children to use their knowledge of suffixes and prefixes too!

i.e. immediate might become immediately for the test!

## **English**

English home learning will be set via Seesaw on a Friday with the expectation that the task will be completed by the following Wednesday.

## **Times Tables Rockstars**

Regular practice will help your children become fluent times tables rockstars. Times Tables help with so many different areas of maths and are key for all year 5/6 students! See the back page of this leaflet for more!

Keep an eye out for any competitions or challenges online!

## **Maths**

Maths home learning will be set via Seesaw on a Friday with the expectation that the task will be completed by the following Wednesday.

The tasks that are set will be in line with what the children have been learning that week in Maths.

**Reading** – This year we are really promoting a love of reading as it underpins all learning.

We expect the children to be reading 5 times a week at home. Please can **three** of these times be to an adult and **this needs to be recorded and signed in the planner every week.** We are happy for you to read to your child, share audio books, take turns in reading pages etc but the most important thing is to talk about what has been read.

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING IN ALL PLANNERS ON A MONDAY TO LOOK AT THE READING THAT HAS HAPPENED AT HOME.**

## **Early Morning Activities**

Early morning activities begin at 8:40am and focus on the key skills of reading, spellings, maths and grammar. Please ensure you are here on time to take part!

# Helping at Home

Below are some ideas of what you can do with your child over the next half term to support the learning at school

## **Practise:**

Spelling tests will take place on a Friday. Please support your child by discussing the current week's rules with them and the spellings they are learning. In the back of their planners is a list of words they should be able to spell in KS2.

Please aim for at least 3 sessions on TTRS per week. Please speak to your child's class teacher if your child has forgotten their logon details.

**Talk and explore** (Here are some example questions to generate discussion about what we will be doing at school. Some of these will not be covered at the beginning of the term):

- Who was Charles Darwin? Where did he travel? What did he see?
- What are the Latin (Scientific names) for common animals?
- How closely related are different animals?

## **Watch and Play**

BBC Bitesize - Evolution and Inheritance

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvhhvcw>

Learning Resources from the Natural History Museum

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/key-stage-2/evolution-and-inheritance.html>

Live Evolution and Inheritance Lesson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbKpu8QTn5I>

Dara O'Briain's Science Club - The Story of Inheritance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3F5BV82Lg8>

## **Read**

Please continue to read with your child at home and discuss the characters and the themes in the stories. When reading, please make a note in their planners yourself, or check that your child has filled in what they have read.

## **SATs (Year 6)**

We will be doing plenty of revision and practise at school - if you would like to do some more revision at home, there are revision books available (see the email which was sent out following the Y6 SATs Parents Evening). Please do not do any past SATs papers at home as we will be doing these at school.

# Why are times tables useful?

**Square and cube numbers**

$3^2 = 3 \times 3 = 9$

$5^2 = 5 \times 5 = 25$

$2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$

**Factors and common factors**

3 6	4 8	3 6
1 x 3 6	1 x 4 8	1 x 3 6
2 x 1 8	2 x 2 4	2 x 1 8
3 x 1 2	3 x 1 6	3 x 1 2
4 x 9	4 x 1 2	4 x 9
6 x 6	6 x 8	6 x 6

**Calculating volume**

Volume =  $5 \times 3 \times 2$

**Multiples and common multiples**

Multiples of 3: 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 21, 24

Multiples of 4: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32

**Short and long division**

$$\begin{array}{r} 156 \\ 4 \overline{) 625} \\ \underline{4} \phantom{0} \\ 22 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{20} \phantom{0} \\ 25 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{20} \phantom{0} \\ 50 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{40} \phantom{0} \\ 100 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{80} \phantom{0} \\ 200 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{160} \phantom{0} \\ 400 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{400} \phantom{0} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

**Using algebraic rules**

Rule:  $5n - 4$

1st term:  $5 \times 1 - 4 = 1$

2nd term:  $5 \times 2 - 4 = 6$

3rd term:  $5 \times 3 - 4 = 11$

4th term:  $5 \times 4 - 4 = 16$

5th term:  $5 \times 5 - 4 = 21$

**Area of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms**

$(b \times h) \div 2$

Area =  $36\text{cm}^2$

**Short and long multiplication**

$$\begin{array}{r} 853 \\ \times 32 \\ \hline 1706 \\ \times 1606 \\ \hline 16856 \end{array}$$

**Ordering and comparing fractions**

$\frac{2}{3} \times 4 = \frac{8}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4} \times 3 = \frac{9}{4}$
$\frac{8}{12}$	$\frac{9}{12}$

**Simplifying fractions**

$\frac{9}{15} \div 3 = \frac{3}{5}$

**Converting between mixed and improper fractions**

$1\frac{3}{4} = \frac{7}{4}$

multiply

**Finding prime factors**

**Finding a fraction or percentage of a number**

$\frac{3}{4}$  of 48

$48 \div 4 = 12$   
dividing by 4 finds one quarter.

$12 \times 3 = 36$   
multiplying by 3 finds 3 quarters

**Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions**

$$\frac{7}{4} + \frac{11}{8} = \frac{14}{8} + \frac{11}{8} = \frac{25}{8}$$

$$\frac{25}{8} = 3\frac{1}{8}$$

**Identifying prime and composite numbers**

A prime number is a whole number greater than 1 with no divisors except 1 and itself.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

**Calculating ratio**

A prize is shared in a ratio of 3 : 4 between Jamie and Dan. If Jamie gets £21, how much will Dan get?

Jamie : Dan  
3 : 4

$21 \div 3 = 7$  (multiply by 7)

$7 \times 4 = 28$  (multiply by 4)

21 : 28