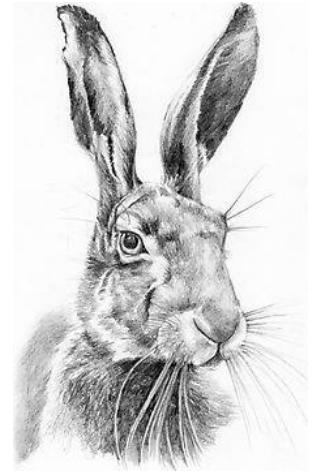


Autumn Term

Dear children and parents of Yr5,

Welcome back! I am incredibly pleased to be welcoming you all back to school, what a strange academic year last year was, and the classroom just wasn't the same without us all together. Knowing we would all be reunited as a Year 5 class made me super happy, and I am looking forward to picking up where we left off, seeing you all achieve and realise your potential. We have much exciting learning ahead of us that I know you will all do so well in.

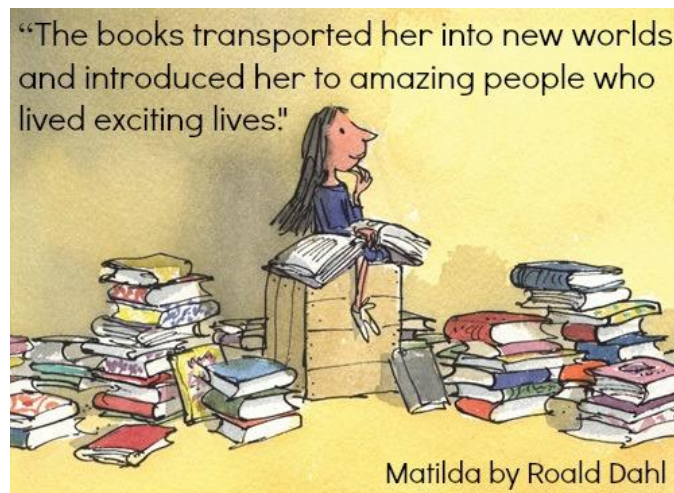


We have moved classrooms, and I am really pleased with what a great learning environment it provides. We have lots of space, some wonderful display areas and an exciting new reading board for you to challenge yourself with.

## Reading

Reading plays a significant part of our return to school. For some of us, we have continued to read throughout the Covid lockdown, but for others of us, reading has taken a back seat and has not been a priority. I will endeavour to re-engage, motivate and inspire you all to choose new books to read and to give you many opportunities to listen and read to a variety of different books across a range of storylines and genres.

Every day in school you will have the opportunity to read to yourself, hear a story read aloud for pleasure and be exposed to extracts of texts and stories for your curriculum subjects. You can choose books from the reading board or the library that engage and interest you, that take you on adventures and journeys, introduce to you to new characters, make you feel and think and give you the chance to step into your imagination.

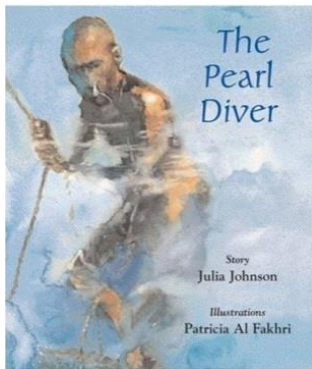
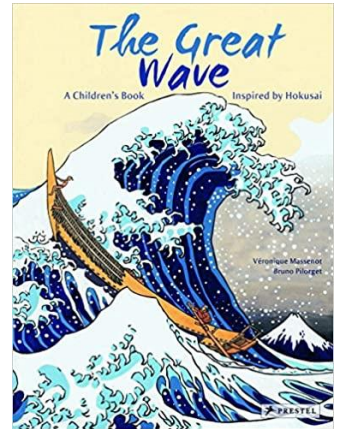


For some of us reading is already a big part of our daily routine, we find it a comfort, we enjoy it, it is relaxing and we do not find it difficult. For others of us, reading is more tricky, it is tiring and hard work and we find there are other things we would rather do in our spare time to help us relax...but reading is like any skill; swimming, riding a bike, drawing, achieving a new level on a game, you have to practice to get good at it, and the more you practice the easier and more enjoyable it becomes. Pick the right book for you, have that feeling of not wanting to put it down because you want to know what happens next, and let reading be part of who you are. The more you read, the richer your language becomes, the more you are exposed to the world that surrounds you, and the more the creativity in you writing is lifted – let's do this together 😊

## English

I am looking forward to sharing our class books with you, the first book we will read, enjoy and study is *The Great Wave* by Veronique Massenot, this is a story book inspired by the Japanese artist Hokusai who painted 36 views of Mount Fuji. The 'Great Wave' is one of his most famous pieces... hopefully (fingers crossed!) by the end of term you will have recreated this wonderful painting!!

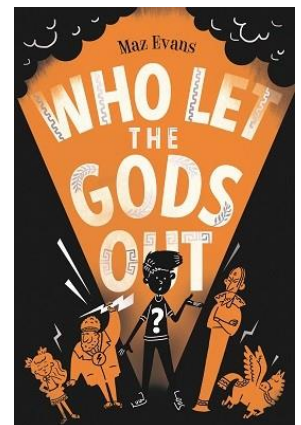
*On a stormy winter's day, a baby boy, Naoki, is swept into a fisherman's boat by a great wave. Years pass, but still Naoki does not grow. Must he return to the ocean in order to become a young man? The answer arrives in the form of a mythic fish.*



Following on from this book we continue to read stories from other cultures when we read 'Pearl Diver' by Julia Johnson. Long before the discovery of oil, pearl diving and fishing were the main sources of income in the Arabian Gulf. The life of a diver was full of hardships and dangers and so the story will take the children on an adventure, below the seas surface, in search of pearls. We will use this book in our English lessons, art and geography. The artwork within the book beautifully recreates scenes from both above and below the waters of the Arabian Gulf, we will use water colour, oil pastels and wax resist paintings to show these scenes.

In Autumn 2 we will be studying the Greeks, our class reading book is linked to this history topic.

*Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo – a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world – and solving Elliot's problems too?*



In English you will have the chance to read, write, develop your vocabulary and language skills and practice any new spelling patterns which we are learning in class.



In addition to English lessons that focus on a story book and developing writing we will also continue with our weekly reading comprehension lessons. The purpose of reading is comprehension — getting meaning from written text, without comprehension, reading is frustrating and is not enjoyable. Together we will break down the meaning of new vocabulary, use clues within the text and our own knowledge to understand what is written, we will ask questions, make predictions and infer hidden meaning within the text. We will use a range of fiction and non-fiction genres, song words, film clips and images to build these essential skills to reading.

**Reading for pleasure**

I will read these 2 books to you over the course of the term, both are books that have been enjoyed in my house, in fact I think Freya has read the Libby Scott book twice she enjoyed it so much.

**Can you see me? By Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott**

*This is a novel about autism with one very significant difference. Co-author Libby Scott is autistic herself and she is also 11 years old, thus ensuring that the narrative of Can You See Me? is as credible as possible.*

Tally is eleven years old and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same as her friends. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic.

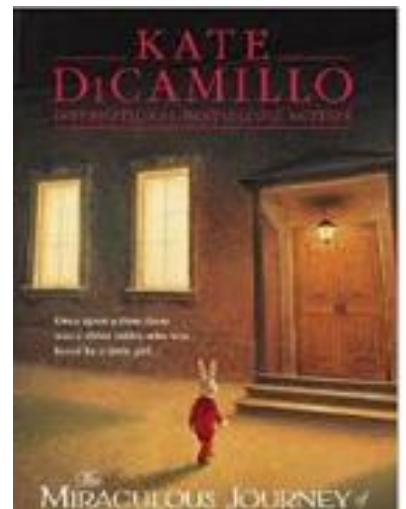
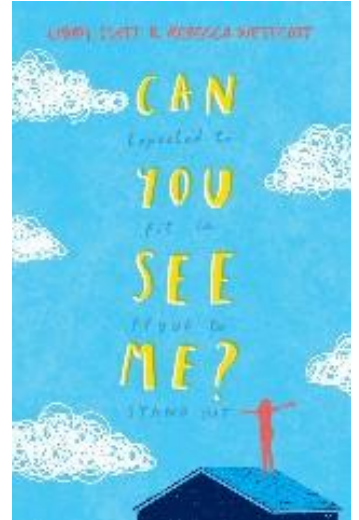
Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand, her and feel frustrated by her.

People think that because Tally's autistic, she doesn't realise what they're thinking, but Tally sees and hears - and notices- all of it. And, honestly? That's not the easiest thing to live with.

**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo**

Edward Tulane is an impressive and immaculate china rabbit. Abigail, his owner, adores and cares for him completely, but Edward does not return her love. Edward is self-centred, proud and heartless; he cares nothing for love.

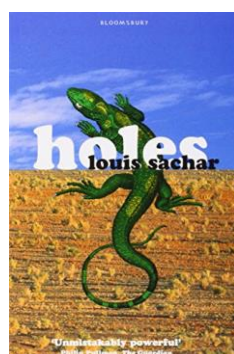
Then, through a series of accidents Edward is separated from Abigail. His fine clothes, pride and his body are damaged as he passes through the hands of a fisherman, a hobo and a farmer's daughter. He learns about love and experiences the pain that comes with loss and death. He wonders if he can bear to risk loving again.



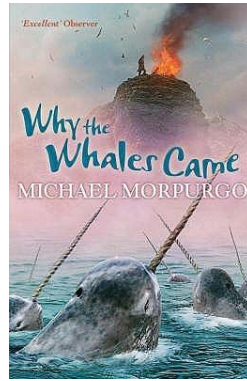
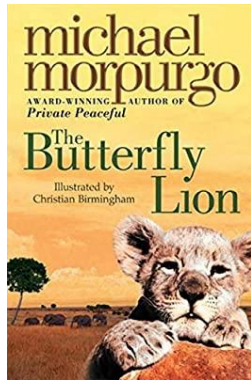
**Reading display**

Last year I challenged the children to read books around the world, this was popular and some children almost completed the whole board. This year I have a reading tree and the children will select a book from a branch of the tree to read and then have their photos hung from the display in celebration once they have read the book. These are the first 12 books to be added to the tree.

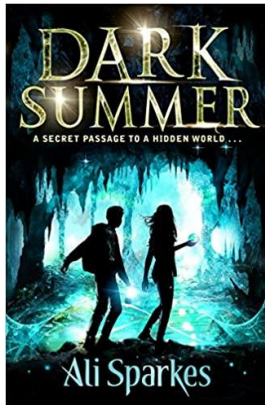
Louis Sachar:



Michael Morpurgo:



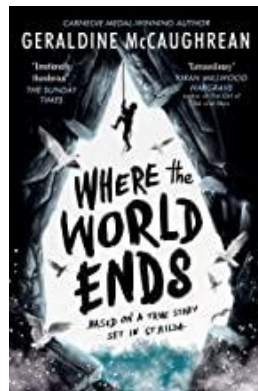
Ali Sparkes:



R J Palacio:



Gerraldine McCaughrean:



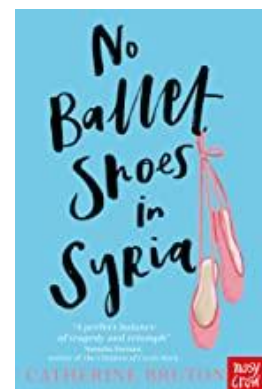
Gill Lewis:



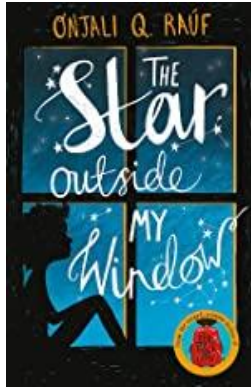
Malorie Blackman:



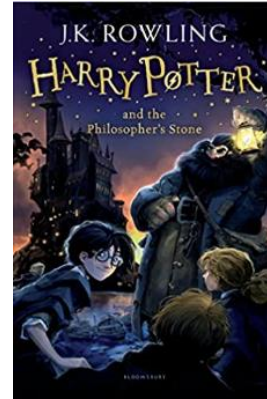
Katherine Bruton:



Onjali K Rauf:



J.K. Rowling:



All of these books are available in school for the children to choose, in addition Miss Towns has been in touch with Clare library and they are happy to obtain extra copies of the books all 7 of our school classes choose as their reading challenge books, so that you may have the chance to borrow them from a local library.

One main difference with reading in school at the moment is that books cannot be taken backwards and forwards between school and home. All school chosen books must remain in the classroom and home books must stay at home. You can of course read these books at home as well as in school and still have your photo hung from the tree.

## Curriculum Subjects

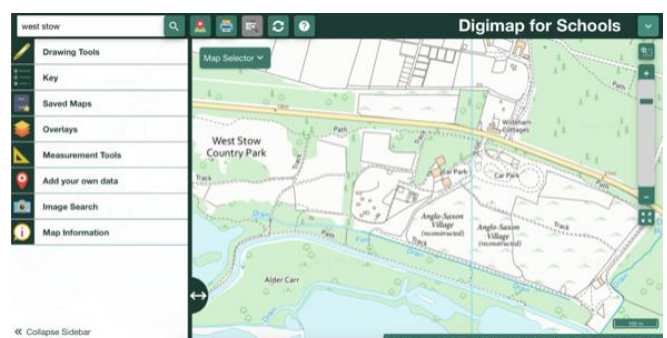
In **science** this term our topic for autumn term is living things and their habitats, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

### Living things and their habitats

1. Life cycle differences – what's the difference between a mammal and an amphibian?
2. Life cycle differences – what's the difference between an insect and a bird?
3. What is similar and what is different between the life cycles of a mammal, an insect, an amphibian and a bird?
4. Summer birds – who was Maria Merion and what did she do?
5. The science of life - how do living things reproduce?
6. Plants and animals: what's the life process of reproduction?

Our **geography** topic in autumn 1 revisits work from year 4 on longitude, latitude, hemispheres, and the equator and climate zones. We then move on to why we need lines of longitude and latitude, how these are used and their purpose. We will learn about 4 and 6-figure grid references, thinking as a geographer in how we describe our locations and settings.

We will use digimaps online to support and enhance our learning.



In autumn 2 we focus on **History** and the Ancient Greeks; the place, the time period and the people. We will study their ways of life, their artwork and pottery, the first Olympic Games, the importance of Athens and compare this to Sparta and how their ways of life has influenced the way we live today in a modern world.

For this term, Hares class will have **PE** on a Wednesday and Thursday. Both sessions will be outdoors as much as the weather permits. Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy, and be prepared with warm clothes such a tracksuit when the weather begins to get cooler. On a Wednesday the children will have their lesson with a PE coach from Premier Sport and Friday will be PE with myself.

In addition to their PE lessons, as a school we are trying to improve the children's fitness and health with a daily walk. This will be outdoors, on the school field or around the local area. **Children will need to have an outdoors pair of trainers, which they can leave in school.**

## Homework

Homework will continue with the weekly requirements of spellings, times tables and reading. We encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school.

The children will be continuing with their Times Table Rockstars work this year. This was really successful last year, and the children seemed to really enjoy the interactive nature of the scheme. The children will do four timed tests at the beginning of each maths lesson and will have some time for the computer-based activities at a point in the week.

In addition, as the children are now in Year 5 there will also be alternate weekly maths and English work set on showbie to be completed and self-marked. As this is a requirement for all children in upper key stage 2 the children will be expected to have their homework complete or miss playtime to do their work. This will be set on a Thursday to be due in the following Thursday. My top tip would be to look at the homework Thursday evening and then ask for help on a Friday if you are unsure, homework help will always be given.

Meanwhile, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Hares Class and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Sarah Morris

