

## Autumn Term

Dear children and parents of Yr. 6

Welcome back to the final year at Wickhambrook! Year 6 already! We are very excited about the year ahead and all the wonderful opportunities for learning and enrichment that we have planned.

We hope that you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer, even if the weather did not always make it feel like the summer holidays! Thank you for all your warm wishes, cards and gifts at the end of last term, they were very much appreciated ☺



So as we begin on the final year of primary school let us explain to you about how the new academic year will be structured and what the children can expect from the autumn term.

Mrs Morris – Class Teacher from Monday to a Wednesday

Mrs Ratcliffe – Class Teacher Thursday and Friday.

On a Thursday and Friday, Mrs Morris will spend time in with the year 6 children offering SAT preparation to small groups, as well as having time for her English subject lead role and Assistant Head role.

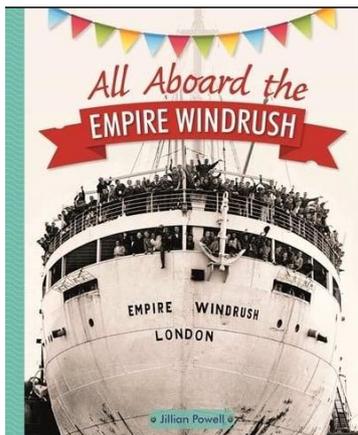
We are very excited about school life returning to 'normal' with lunches and assemblies in the hall and full use of the school facilities. We all really hope that this continues so that the children can have a full year 6 experience at school with buddies, responsibilities and of course Grafham Water at the end of the academic year.

## Buddies

All of the children wrote letters to their Early Years buddy back in the summer term of year 5, and they are very much looking forward to spending time with them when they begin school. Every Friday the Year 6 will have lunch with their buddy and enjoy having time to play and read with them afterwards. The role of buddy is to help settle the new children at school, offer them a friendly face to play with and to be a good role model to, showing them the correct way to play and behave as they begin their school journey with us. Mrs Butler, our EYFS teacher, is very much looking forward to working with our year 6 children also.

## English

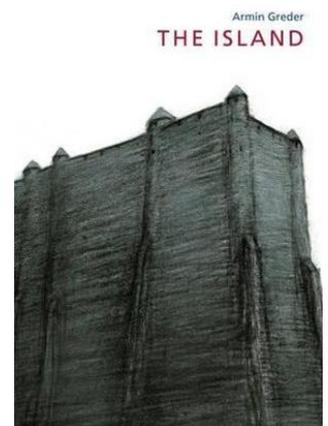
In English this term we will be reading the following 2 books as part of our daily comprehension lesson.



It is 1948 and Preston is about to set sail on a journey that will change his life forever. He and his parents will travel on The Empire Windrush from Jamaica to start a new life in Britain. Join Preston on board and discover who was on this famous ship; how the passengers entertained themselves on the long journey; and what they thought of England when they arrived! Learn how the Windrush passengers have contributed to British life today.

When the people of the Island discover a man and a tattered raft on their beach, they are reluctant to take him in. He doesn't look like them. But they cannot send him back to the sea where he will surely perish. Instead, they put him aside but even that doesn't solve their problem.

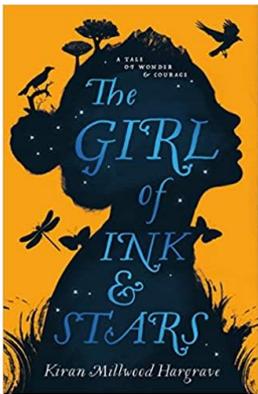
*The Island* is an astonishing and powerful picture book about refugees, xenophobia, multiculturalism, social politics and human rights.



The books will link to our History unit on The Windrush, the children will learn about immigration and it is hoped that studying these books will spark conversations about refugees, human rights, racism and open their eyes to the multicultural world in which we live.

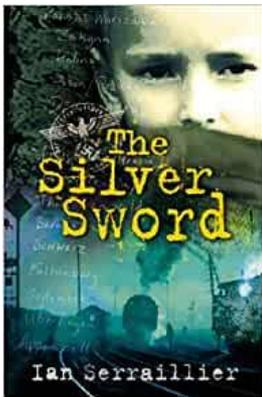
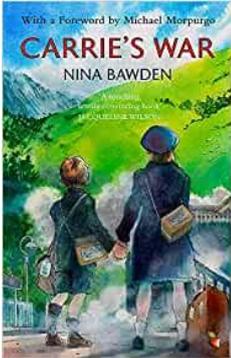
Reading is an integral part of school life and there will be many daily opportunities for the children to read. In addition to reading in class, the children will bring home a reading book from school and be encouraged to read from our list of recommended reading books.

**Yr6 Autumn Term – Recommended Reads**



A beautifully written story about friendship and bravery, *The Girl of Ink and Stars* is a must read. Isabella lives on the island of Joya with her father, a cartographer and her faithful hen, Miss La. Discovering the history of her home, Isa is determined to one day venture beyond Gromera and discover the mysteries of the forbidden lands beyond.

Carrie and her brother Nick are evacuated to Wales to live with the strict Mr Evans. When Carrie visits Hepzibah Green she does perhaps the worst thing imaginable. How can she make things right?

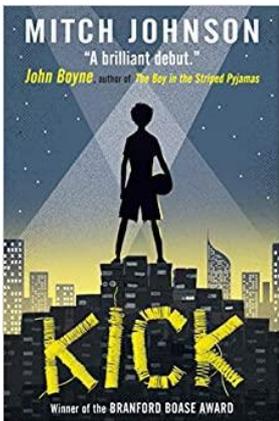
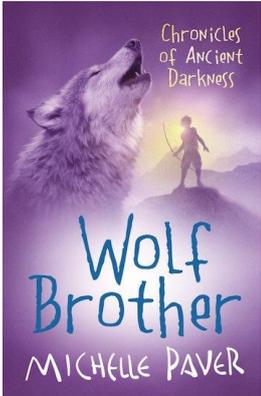


Separated from his parents in Poland in World War Two, Jan and his three friends travel through war-torn Europe to Switzerland with only a silver sword for protection. Will he find his parents?

Thousands of years ago, a powerful and malevolent force conjured a demon: a demon so evil that it could only be contained in the body of a ferocious bear, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it ...

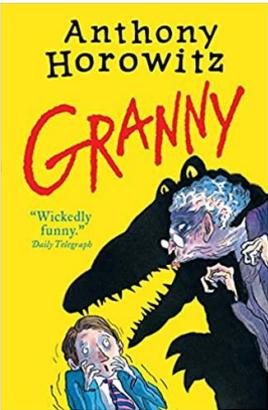
Twelve-year-old Torak sees his father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, he asks his son to make him a promise. Alone, wounded, terrified and on the run, Torak must now lead the bear to the Mountain of the World Spirit - a mountain that no one has ever found before. But can Torak keep his promise?

A terrifying quest commences in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.



Budi's plan is simple. He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.

Twelve-year-old Joe has an unbelievably evil Granny. Not only is Granny physically repulsive and horribly mean, but she also has the look in her eye of a predatory crocodile. Soon Joe starts to suspect that she has unpleasant designs on him. But what are they and how can he foil them?



**Maths**

In maths this term we focus on place value and numbers up to 1 million, recapping the 4 calculation methods, square numbers, cube numbers and prime number and looking again at equivalent fractions. In addition to the 4 maths lessons each week there will be an arithmetic lesson that will focus on the question types and teaching the children arithmetic methods. The year 6 paper falls in line with a SATs paper, whereby the children have 36 questions (worth 40 marks) to complete in 30 minutes. We will be supporting the children with their speed of answering and ensuring they double check questions and methods to avoid losing 'easy' marks.

**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:

**UNIT TITLE**

1. Who was the scientist Carl Linnaeus and what did he do?
2. How do we classify vertebrates?
3. How do we classify invertebrates we know?
4. How do we classify invertebrates we don't know? (Sponges, Jellyfish and Flatworms)
5. How do we classify invertebrates we don't know? (Starfish and Sea urchins, Crustacea and Myriapoda)
6. Apply it: What animals can I classify? What animals and plants exist in my local environment?

In **Geography** this term our topic for autumn term is Comparison of Places, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

**UNIT TITLE**

1. Where is the Lake District and what is it like?
2. How was the Lake District formed?
3. Poland: where can you find the Tatra mountains?
4. What are the Tatra mountains like?
5. The Caribbean and Jamaica: what do we know? What's the terrain like?
6. What is similar and what is different between the Lake District, Tatra mountains and the Caribbean?

In **History** this term our topic for autumn term is The Windrush, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

**UNIT TITLE**

1. Where are the Caribbean islands? What's their history?
2. How did the people of the Caribbean help Britain in the war against Nazi Germany and Hitler?
3. Why did people migrate from the Caribbean to England in 1948?
4. What was life in London like for the Windrush pioneers?
5. Who was Sam King and what did he do? Who was Norma Best and what did she do?
6. How did the Windrush migration change Britain for the better?

## Other subject overview

Our computing topic for the half term will focus on online safety, which as the children get older and begin to use a wider range of apps and play more online games because even more important. Teaching the children how to protect themselves online and report any concerns they have will be a big focus of the learning.

## PE routines & PE kit expectations

For the whole academic year, Foxes class will have **double PE** on a Wednesday. In this first term, one of these sessions will be outdoors with Premier Sport and the second session will be gymnastics in the school hall.

Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy. We recommend children have shorts and t-shirt for gymnastics, as they will get warm inside, then a tracksuit they can put on over the top as they move outdoors for their second session.

## Playtimes

Where possible all playtimes will be on the field, we have a wide range of new equipment for them to enjoy and the space for them to run around and have fun. As the weather changes it is essential the children have an outdoor pair of trainers or wellies, which they can leave in school. A coat for wet weather and waterproof trousers or a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms they can slip over the top of their school clothes to avoid getting their uniform dirty. We have new welly racks for all classrooms, this will allow for us to store all outdoor shoes neatly.

## 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 for year 6, there will be homework set for the core subjects but at this present time we are unsure what format this will take and we will be in touch when we have a clear plan.

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 X 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

Mrs Morris and Mrs Ratcliffe