

St John's Primary School



This term our values will be **kindness** and **responsibility**.

PE days Autumn 1: Mondays and Wednesdays

PE days Autumn 2: Mondays and Wednesdays

Years 5 and 6 Coffee Morning: Monday 8th September (9am)

Years 5 & 6 trip to Thorpe Park (STEAM): Tuesday 7th October

Flu Immunisation: Wednesday 8th October

Parents' evening: Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October

W/C 20th October: Healthy Week (Skipping and First Aid workshops)

Harvest Service at St. John's Church: Friday 24th October 10am (families welcome)

Half term (school closed): Monday 27th – Friday 31st October

INSET DAYS (school closed): Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th November

Individual and siblings photos: Wednesday 12th November

Open afternoon (from 3pm): Tuesday 9th December, parents welcome to come in and look at children's work

Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 17th December

Christmas parties: Thursday 18th December

Christmas Service (10am) and end of Autumn term (pick up at 2pm): Friday 19th December

Year 5 Autumn Term 2025



THE BIG IDEA (Autumn 1) It's a Jungle Out There! (Rainforests)

Rainforests once covered 20% of our world's surface. Now they cover only 5%. Every second, an area of the rainforest the size of a football field is being destroyed. Some scientists believe that, if we lose our rainforests, we might put our whole planet at risk. What will we do to help save the rainforest?

As **readers** we will:

- Read *Survivors* by David Long
- Read *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes

As **writers** we will write:

- Persuasive letters
- Non-chronological reports (survival guide)
- Character descriptions
- Narratives with dialogue
- Christmas poetry

As **geographers** we will learn:

- What a biome is and how biomes and climate zones are linked
- About where rainforests are in the world
- About the physical features of a rainforest (layers)
- About how and why rainforests are being destroyed (focus on deforestation)
- What people are doing to save rainforests (conservation)
- About the freshwater biome

As **historians** we will:

- Locate modern day Iraq and the surrounding countries in the Middle East
- Study Baghdad, the most influential city in early Islamic civilization
- Understand the role of the Silk Road in trade and spread of ideas

THE BIG IDEA (Autumn 2) Early Islamic Civilisations and Baghdad

While Europe was in a period called 'the Dark Ages', early Islamic societies were developing scientific thinking, medicine, literature and prosperous trade routes. This period of time, from the 8th century to the 14th century, is called the Golden Age of Islam. We will examine the legacy of this and learn more about the history of a non-European society.

As **scientists** we will learn:

- Forces
- Earth & Space
- Global Warming

As **mathematicians** we will learn:

- Place value (numbers to 1,000,000)
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division
- Fractions

We will also learn **Art** (drawing in perspective with a focus on Camille Pissarro), **DT** (spaghetti Bolognese), **RE** (Judaism and Christianity), **PSHE**, **Music**, **French**, **Computing** and **PE**.

How you can help at home:

Please continue to encourage your child to complete their weekly homework, which includes reading at least three times per week and recording this in their reading record, as well as completing their assigned maths and spelling tasks. Establishing a consistent routine is essential and will greatly support their transition to secondary school.

A regular and healthy bedtime routine is also important to ensure your child is getting sufficient rest. Coming to school well-rested helps them to focus, engage more effectively in lessons, and make the most of their learning opportunities.

We also kindly ask that you support your child in arriving at school on time each day, as this sets a positive tone for the day and ensures they do not miss valuable learning time.

If your child is experiencing any difficulties—whether academic or personal—please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are here to support them in every way we can and value working in partnership with you to help them thrive.