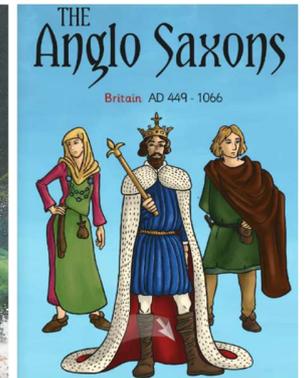
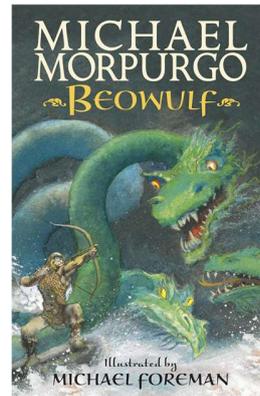


Year 5 Autumn 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 5 and Upper Key Stage 2! I hope you have all had a relaxing and restful summer and had a chance to reconnect with family and friends. We have a very exciting term ahead of us and I can't wait to get started!

In **Literacy**, we will be reading the book *Beowulf*; Michael Morpurgo's poetic retelling of the tale of an epic hero and the infamous monster Grendel. It will provide rich opportunities for the pupils to reach into the depths of their imagination to produce creative pieces. From newspaper reports to emotive diary entries, children will be developing their grammar, punctuation and spelling through stimulating, rich outcomes.



In **Maths** this half term, we will build on our knowledge of place value by looking at numbers up to one million. We will practise rounding and look at powers of ten. Children will continue to solve tricky problems to develop their reasoning and depth in learning. I encourage everyone to get back into their times tables as we may be feeling a bit rusty after lots of time out of school! Times table rockstars is a great website to use but there are lots of fun ways to practise. A few minutes a night makes all the difference to their progress in Year 5.

In **Science**, we will be investigating the life cycle of plants and animals. The children will carry out simple class based investigations and devise their own methods for recording, questioning and evaluating.

In **History**, we'll be kicking things off with an in depth look at the Anglo-Saxon struggle for power in England. We'll travel back in time to learn about why they invaded and what life was like during this fascinating but relatively mysterious time. Children will discover who these people were and how they helped shape the Britain we know. Finally, the children will be able to answer the question: *Anglo-Saxons and Vikings: Who were the most successful invaders?*

In **Religious Studies**, we will spend this half term focussing on Hinduism, specifically trying to answer the question '*What is the best way to show commitment to God?*'. We will learn about showing commitment to God through Puja, pilgrimage and Dharma. Finally, the children will be able to critically evaluate how Hindus show commitment to God.

In **Design and Technology**, we will start the year by looking at the foods the Anglo-Saxons made and cooking some of these ourselves, concentrating on issues of seasonality and a balanced diet. Our P.E. lessons will be on a Monday and the children will be swimming. A reminder that children need to wear appropriate PE attire to school that day.

In **PSHE** (Personal, Social, Health Education) we will be learning about the government, democracy and equal rights. We will begin the unit by looking at the implications of living in a

society with no rules. Then we will move on to learning about staying safe online and the negative impact of online trolling on mental health. We will finish the unit off by analysing the risks and consequences of smoking and drugs. We will look at the importance of making responsible, informed choices.

In **Music**, we will be starting the unit by analysing the instruments and rhythm and pulse in the song '*Living on a Prayer*.' We will then compare this with the song '*We will Rock you*' focussing on similarities and differences. We will build on this and continue to learn about texture, dynamics, pitch and tempo by evaluating other songs and discussing what we hear. Finally, leading to discussing rhythmic phrases; looking at chords and timbres.

In **Computing** we will be focused on programming using Scratch. The children will learn how to create their own computer game, based on the Beowulf/Grendel battle.

For homework this first half term, we will be continuing with project-based learning. Please see your child's homework book for the homework grid which contains further information. Homework is due on Wednesday October 20th for a school-wide exhibition. The pupils will be using the CGP Maths books each week for homework. They should complete 1-2 per week. The children have also been sent home with a spelling grid that we will work from throughout the term.

Reading continues to be the most useful and important thing you can do at home with your child. In key stage 2 they should be reading for at least 20 minutes independently every night and making at least three entries in their reading record a week. These entries need to be signed by an adult. Children may take books home from school. We have a school library brimming with exciting books! If you need any help with book suggestions please let me know. Reading records should be brought in every Thursday to be checked.

If you have any questions, concerns or problems please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Kind Regards,

Kessiah