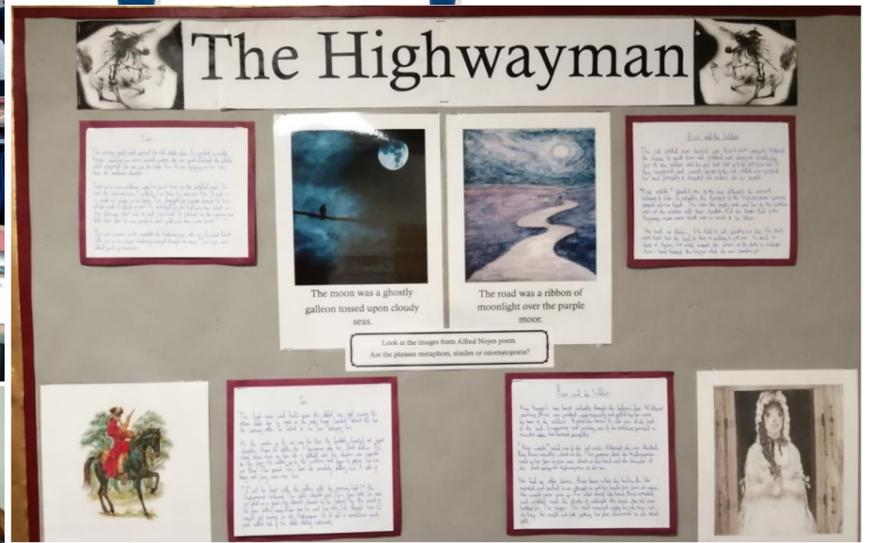


Our Autumn Learning Journey

Maths

The children have worked really hard this term, tackling the challenges of Y5 Maths with resilience and determination. This term, the children have continued to develop their understanding of place value and the operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The children have particularly enjoyed learning about Roman numerals. The children were very excited when they were challenged to make as many Roman Numerals as they could with only 6 art straws. They have a brilliant understanding of Roman Numerals which they have gained through learning songs and finding patterns.



English

Year 5 are always so enthusiastic about English! They relish any opportunity to put pen to paper and showcase their creative thoughts. This term the children have studied report writing, descriptive writing, letter writing and story writing. They have loved learning poems like "The Highwayman" and old, ancient stories like "Beowulf" through the Talk for Writing process. Using Talk for Writing, the children are able to retell and act out stories to help them to develop their own writing. As you can tell by the pictures below, the children find it very easy to get in to the dramatic spirit of the performance part of our lessons!



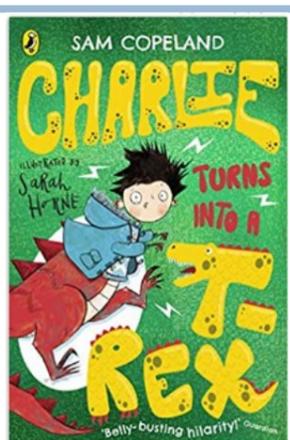
Science

In the first Autumn term, the children learnt about space. The children loved this topic and thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck in to all the practical lessons. They went out on to the field and used toilet rolls to measure out the relative distances between planets (and you thought panic buyers left the shelves bare!) and they also took part in a special space scavenger hunt which saw them following clues to find the answers to space questions. This half term, the children are learning about materials and their properties. The children are enjoying this topic because each lesson they are formulating and carrying out their own scientific experiments.



Reading

Reading time is one of Year 5's favourite parts of the day. This term they have read two texts, Beowulf and Charlie Turns Into a T-Rex. The children have loved the Charlie books and many children have said that they have put the books on their Christmas list! It is so lovely to hear how many children are enjoying reading this year and how many are settling in to brilliant reading habits.



Art

In art, the children have been studying Anglo-Saxon jewellery. They have carefully observed and copied patterns and shapes and have mixed colours to match the magnificent jewels used by the Anglo-Saxons. The children have started to design their own Anglo-Saxon inspired brooches and will be making them after Christmas.



PE

The children have been working very hard to increase their fitness. They have been practising their skipping skills and improving each week. The children have been very lucky to receive weekly rugby lessons from a specialist rugby coach. Over half the class are attending multi-sports club on a Thursday night which is not only keeping them healthy but improving their confidence and teamwork too.

History

The children have been absolutely enthralled by their Anglo-Saxon topic. They have displayed an amazing thirst for knowledge, acting like real historians to ask questions about the past. They have been analysing the question, "Was the Anglo Saxon age really the Dark Age?" and have been examining historical sources to come to a conclusion. They are putting all their hard work together to create a large project piece that will summarise all of their learning from the past term. The children are really enjoying it and are very proud of the work that they have created.



PSHE

As part of UK democracy week, Year 5 took part in a Zoom call with Darlington's M.P. Peter Gibson. Some of the children even performed a live debate for him, discussing the motion "schools should be closed during the Coronavirus pandemic". Mr Gibson was highly impressed and put the class on his Facebook page. It is clear that Y5 has some politicians in the making!

This term, the children have been learning about healthy habits. Year 5 recognise the importance of keeping both your mind and body healthy and have been devising and sharing their own methods to stay fit, calm and happy. They participated in a Zoom call with a doctor who spoke to them about Covid19 and how to stay safe during this time. The children were very inspired by Doctor Theakston and many asked her questions about how to study to become a doctor later in life.



RE

The children have really enjoyed RE this term and have been learning about the impact of Moses and the birth of Jesus. The children are always ready to participate, answering complex questions with thoughtful and considered answers.



Music

The children feel very lucky to have weekly music lessons with Mr Henderson from the Durham Music Service. They are making tremendous progress with their Ukulele skills and can now play along to many songs. They have been highly praised by their music teacher who described them as the "model class" for their resilience, determination and perseverance. Well done Year 5!



Classroom Worship

One of the things that the children have really missed this term is getting together in the hall for assembly time. Instead, they have been continuing their worship in the classroom and have loved rocking out to new songs!



Christmas

The children have had so much fun in the last week of term! They have made Christmas cards, calendars and baubles. They have taken part in the Mayor's Christmas carol, participated in an author and illustrator workshop and will be finishing the week with Christmas baking, films and a party. We know how to have fun at St John's!



ICT

This term, the children have enjoyed extending their knowledge and understanding of computer coding with the help of the programming website "Scratch". They have had great fun creating their own Pac-Man style game.

