

Year 5 Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a

Success

Spring Term 1

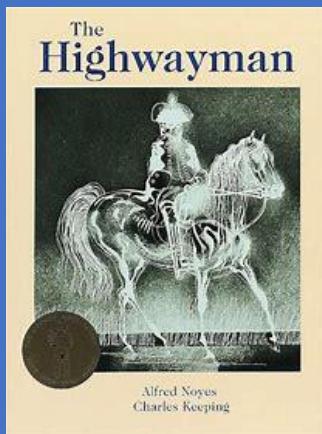
**Monday 5th January 2026
to
Thursday 13th February 2026**



Theme – Terrible Tudors



What will we read this half term?



The Highway Man by Alfred Noyes

"The Highwayman" is a romantic ballad and narrative poem set in 18th century England about an unnamed highway man who falls in love. This poem explores themes of love, loss and death, and is charged with drama as we ride with the highwayman and recoil from the terrible fate that befalls him and his sweetheart Bess, the landlord's daughter.

What will we learn this half term?

Please note that all of the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage and rationales for teaching. Please take time to read them.

English

Our English unit will cover a range of activities which provide opportunities for reading and writing using the classic poem, The Highwayman. The children will be creating their own poem based on the themes raised by the text (love, death, loyalty and betrayal). They will also get to perform their play script.

Our SPaG objectives include; adverbial complex sentences, present perfect tense, active voice and poetic devices (metaphor, onomatopoeia, repetition, etc.)

The Big Debate: Was the Highwayman a hero or a villain?

As part of our English unit on The Highwayman, pupils will develop their oracy skills through a range of engaging activities. These opportunities will include learning the poem by heart and performing it aloud, helping students to build confidence, expression and an appreciation of rhythm and storytelling in poetry.

We will also complete weekly Guided Reading, spelling and handwriting activities too.

Maths

In Maths, we will be working on the following areas:

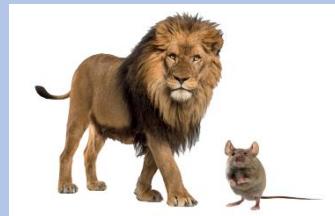
- multiplying 3 and 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number
- multiplying 3 and 4-digit numbers by a 2-digit number
- multiplication problems
- short division



We will also be revising our multiplication and division facts, using the Times Table Rockstars website, which can also be accessed at home. Children have been given their login details and have been shown how to access the resources from home.

Science

Our Animals Including Humans unit will teach your children about the changes that human beings experience as they develop to old age. This includes the life cycle of a human being, how the gestation period of humans compares with other animals and the changes experienced in puberty.



History

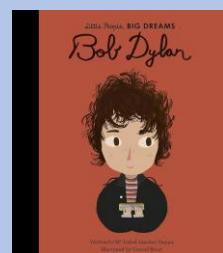
This half-term, we will be researching what life was like in Tudor England and focusing on:

- Was Henry VIII a fair ruler or a tyrant?
- Why did Henry VIII have so many wives?
- Why was Anne Boleyn executed?
- How did Queen Elizabeth I use her royal progress?
- What can inventories tell us about life in Tudor times?



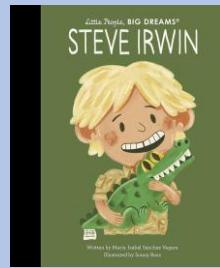
Music

Our music learning is focused around the song: 'Make you feel my love' by Bob Dylan. This is an intergrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music, singing and playing instruments are all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise other pop ballads.



PSHE

Our whole-school PSHE theme is Dreams and Goals. The children will be considering their aspirations for the future and encouraging their peers to work hard to achieve their own dreams and goals. We will look at the life of one of the most celebrated conservationists, Steve Irwin and how he worked hard to achieve his dreams and goals.



RE

Our RE unit explores the key question: Why is the Torah so important for Jewish people? Pupils will learn about Jewish life and beliefs, exploring the diversity of Jewish communities in Britain. They will learn about the central role of the Torah—how a Sefer Torah is made, its importance in the synagogue and the different ways it can be interpreted.

PE

In our indoor PE session, the children will be developing their creativity and confidence in our dance unit. They will learn key choreography skills—such as canon, unison and formation—while working collaboratively to create and refine short routines. Throughout the unit, pupils will experiment with rhythm, dynamics and musicality and will have opportunities to perform and evaluate their work.

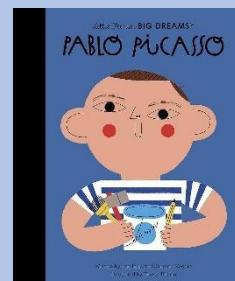
In our outdoor session, the children will be building their skills and confidence in tennis by learning the fundamentals of effective racket control, footwork and coordination. They will practise key shots—including the forehand, backhand and serve—through fun drills and small-sided games. As the unit progresses, pupils will develop their understanding of tactics, teamwork and fair play.

Computing

This unit builds on the previous skills learnt in Year 4 (Questions and Quizzes). The children will use Scratch to build and edit algorithms for simple games. The unit is designed to help children develop their skills in writing their own algorithms as well as editing and debugging existing codes.

Art

We will be looking at painting & mixed media: portraits. They will be creating a self-portrait that aims to represent something about them. They will be trying a variety of materials and compositions for the backgrounds of their drawings. The children will also show understanding by experimenting with materials and techniques when adapting their photo portraits.



As part of our work in mixed-media, we will be sharing the story of Pablo Picasso: one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. He went on to inspire many movements in art, music and literature, which we can still see today.

Foreign Languages

Our French unit is 'Habitats'. In this French unit, pupils will learn key vocabulary to talk about animals, plants and their habitats. They will be able to describe what living things need to survive, name common habitats, and give examples of animals and plants that live in each one - all in French. The unit builds confidence in speaking and listening while connecting language learning to science.

Homework

Your children will continue to receive a piece of English and Maths homework every week and are expected to practise for their weekly times tables/division tests. We ask that you encourage your children to read at home and to please check and sign their times-tables and Reading Record books weekly.



We also recommend using the Times Table Rockstars website, which can be accessed at home, to support children in their learning of multiplication and division facts.

We really look forward to the half term ahead. If you need to get in touch, please write a note in your child's Reading Record or speak to a member of staff on the classroom door who will be happy to answer any queries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Coles, Miss Hind, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Corbett & Miss Ravenscroft