

SQUIRRELS NEWSLETTER

Year 5



Autumn 1

Welcome back, Squirrels. A new year. Fresh energy. Lots to explore.

This term is about curiosity, creativity and confidence. We'll try things, tweak things, get stuck, get unstuck – and keep cheering each other on. Everyone brings something different, and that's what makes our class work.

Our Christian distinctiveness sits quietly at the centre of our learning. It helps us pause, breathe and notice the big feelings and big questions that appear along the way.

Our memory verse this half term is from 1 Corinthians 12:1:

"Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."

Simple. True. Every one of us matters. Every one of us belongs.

This links with our history enquiry: What does the census tell us about local areas? We'll explore old records and see how people, families, jobs and stories fit together – like a woodland full of different creatures, each playing their part.

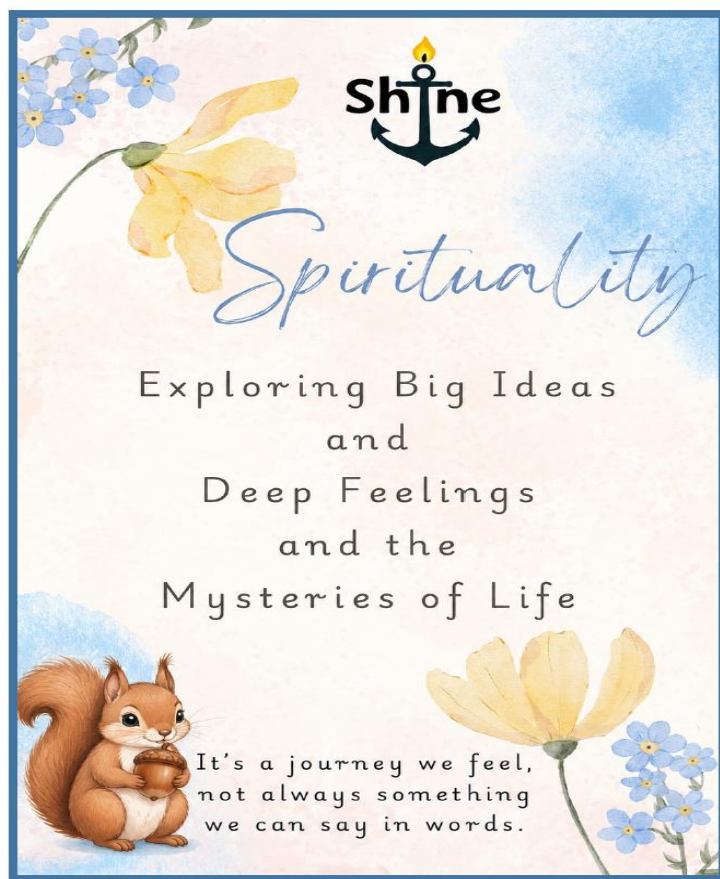
We begin with Values Week, inspired by The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. Determination. Resilience. Creativity. Hope. We'll notice how these values help us face challenges and use our gifts to support others.

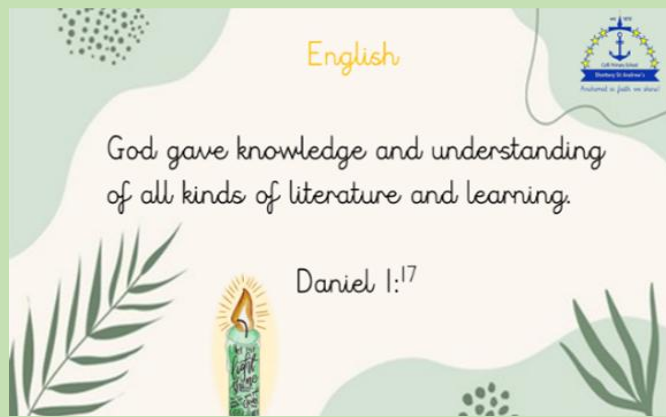
I'm excited for the learning, the wondering, and all the discoveries



Curriculum at a glance...

English	Main writing outcome: A range of writing for the suitcase project Additional Outcomes: Letters, diaries, information leaflets, instructions
Maths	Place Value & Four Operations
History - Humanities	What can the census tell us about local areas?
Science	Living things: Life cycles and reproduction
RE	Who is Jesus?
PSHE	Zones of Regulation My healthy self: How can I support my mind and body as I grow?
Languages	Sign Language French - Portraits - describing in French
Art	Painting and mixed media
Computing	Online safety: Year 5
Music	Film music





English Writing- Taught by Miss Morys

Class Text - Some Places More Than Others - Renée Watson

History question – what can the census tell us about local areas? Just like Amara gathers clues about her family, historians use census records to uncover how communities grow and evolve.

Our main outcome is a creative suitcase project, packed with different types of writing inspired by Amara's journey. Along the way, pupils will create letters, diary entries, information leaflets and even instructions – building a fun collection of texts that explore identity, place and family history.

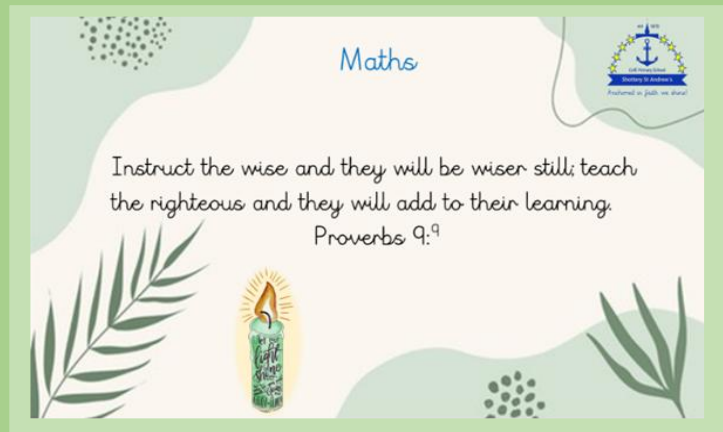
English Reading – Reading is a big part of learning, and we want children to enjoy it! This year we're using FFT Reciprocal Reading – a fun, structured way to boost reading skills.

In these sessions, children become “reading detectives,” using four key strategies: predict, clarify, question, and summarise. They work together to crack clues in the text, build confidence, and understand stories more deeply.

Love for Reading – We'll be diving into a colourful mix of short stories and poems this half term – reading simply because it feels good! These bite-sized adventures help children stretch their imaginations, boost vocabulary, and build confidence without any pressure. When reading feels fun, children lean in, laugh more, and start choosing books for the sheer delight of it.

Spellings – Each week, Year 6 kick-starts their spelling learning with Purple Mash. New spellings are introduced at the start of the week, explored in class, and then sent home so children can practise and show off their skills. It's colourful, interactive and makes





Maths - Taught by Mrs Hill

Place Value & Four Operations

In Year 5, we use White Rose Maths and Mastering Number to help children become maths whizzes! Lessons are a mix of quick-fire teaching, hands-on challenges and problem-solving puzzles. Children explain their thinking, try out different methods and make clever connections – all while building confidence, fluency and independence. Maths... but with extra sparkle!

Every day, Year 5 will kick-start the day with Fluent in Five – a quick, snappy maths warm-up that gets brains buzzing! These mini challenges build speed, accuracy and confidence with key number skills. Arriving on time means children don't miss this daily maths power-up!

This term, Year 5 are diving into place value and the four operations – the big building blocks of maths! We'll be sharpening fluency, tackling problem-solving puzzles and using our skills in real-life situations. It's all about confident number-crunching, clever thinking and maths that feels exciting.

Children will also have opportunity to access TTRS at home, to further strengthen their times table knowledge, which is super important to help assist in other areas of Maths such as fractions.



Curriculum Spelling List Years 5 and 6

accommodate
accompany
according
achieve
aggressive
amateur
ancient
apparent
appreciate
attached
available
average
awkward
bargain
bruise
category
cemetery
committee
communicate
community
competition

conscience
conscious
controversy
convenience
correspond
criticise
curiosity
definite
desperate
determined
develop
dictionary
disastrous
embarrass
environment
equip
equipped
equipment
especially
exaggerate
excellent

existence
explanation
familiar
foreign
forty
frequently
government
guarantee
harass
hindrance
identity
immediate
immediately
individual
interfere
interrupt
language
leisure
lightning
marvellous
mischievous

muscle
necessary
neighbour
nuisance
occupy
occur
opportunity
parliament
persuade
physical
prejudice
privilege
profession
programme
pronunciation
queue
recognise
recommend
relevant
restaurant
rhyme

rhythm
sacrifice
secretary
shoulder
signature
sincere
sincerely
soldier
stomach
sufficient
suggest
symbol
system
temperature
thorough
twelfth
variety
vegetable
vehicle
yacht

Number and Place Value

Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

Compare and Order

millions

equals

greater than

less than

thousands

$$26 + 38 = 8 \times 8$$

$$23\ 873 > 8256$$

$$901\ 198 < 1\ 091\ 098$$

hundreds

Both calculations have the value 64.

The number on the left has 2 ten thousands and the number on the right has 0 ten thousands.

The number on the right has 1 million and the number on the left has 0 millions.

tens

ones

zero

place value

smallest

898

6735

6835

7019

9002

11 235

greatest

greater than

less than

order

round

rounded

negative number

partition

digit

interval

sequence

linear sequence

Negative Numbers



Counting in Powers of 10

Counting in 10s

365 375 385 395 405 415

The tens increase until 9 tens becomes one more hundred and 0 tens.

Counting in 10 000s

276 109 286 109 296 109 306 109

The ten thousands increase until 9 ten thousands become one more hundred thousand and 0 ten thousands.

Counting in 100s

2841 2941 3041 3141 3241 3341

The hundreds increase until 9 hundreds becomes one more thousand and 0 hundreds.

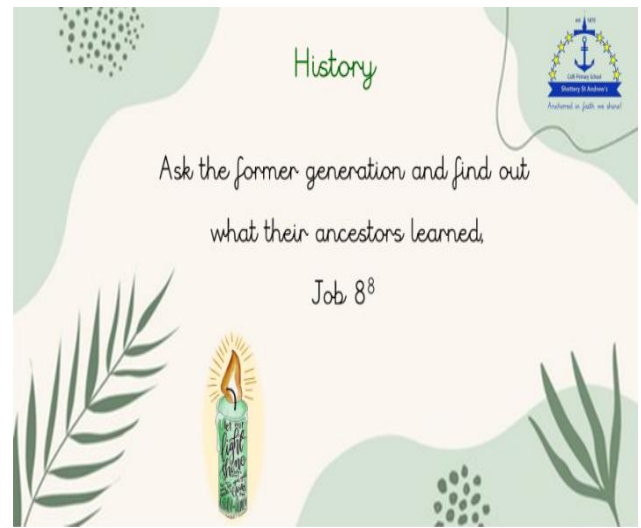
Counting in 100 000s

2 972 151 3 072 151 3 172 151 3 272 151

The hundred thousands increase until 9 hundred thousands becomes one more million and 0 hundred thousands.



History - Year 5 are becoming history detectives as they explore our big question: What can the census tell us about local areas? By digging into real census records, children will uncover fascinating clues about past families, jobs and communities – and piece together what everyday life looked like long ago.



History

Ask the former generation and find out
what their ancestors learned,

Job 8⁸

History - What can the census tell us about local areas?



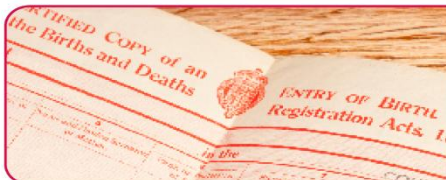
census	An official survey recording information about a population.
decade	Ten years.
Head of Household	The main person responsible for earning money and making important decisions for the household.
historical enquiry	The process of investigating the past by asking questions, examining sources and piecing together how things happened.
inference	Using the clues in sources to form an idea.
local history	The study of the history of an area, looking at its past events, people and changes over time.
occupation	A person's job or profession.
politics	Activities or ideas involved in making decisions for a country, city or group.
reliable	Something or someone that can be trusted.
suffrage	The right to vote in political elections.

What sources can provide information about the local area?



The census is a survey collecting information from every household in the country. It can be used to focus on specific people and places or to identify changes in a particular household over a period of time. It contains information such as the names of people living in a household, their ages, occupations, places of birth, their relationship to the head of household and the number of rooms in a dwelling.

Key vocabulary



Birth, marriage and death records not only identify and confirm births, marriages and deaths but also give extra information such as who witnessed marriages and people's occupations.

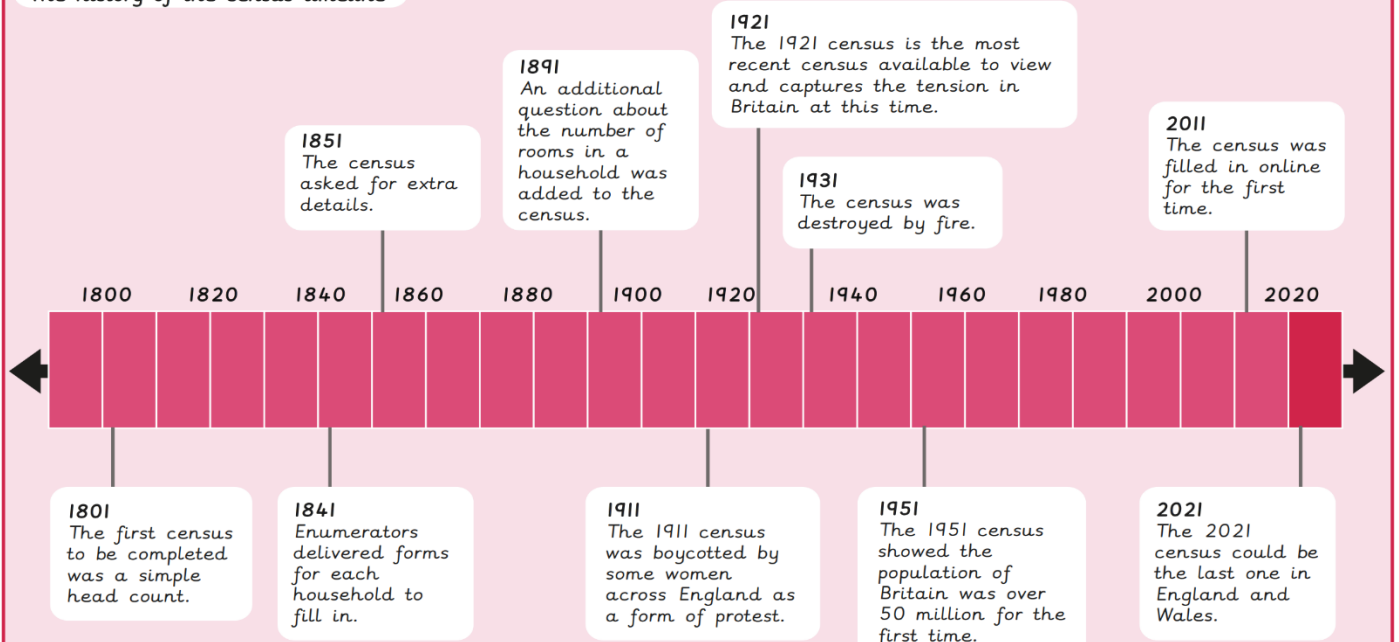


Old maps or plans of the local area show what it was like in the past and allow people to identify how the local area has changed.

History - What can the census tell us about local areas?



The history of the census timeline





Science – This term, Year 5 are exploring the amazing world of Living Things and Reproduction – from buzzing insects to blooming plants! Children will investigate different life cycles, compare how species grow and change, and even discover how plants can reproduce in surprising ways.



Science

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter;
to search out a matter is the glory of king.

Proverbs 25:3

Science - Life cycles and reproduction



Asexual reproduction

- The parent plant creates an exact copy of itself without involving another plant.
- Natural methods include **runners**, **tubers**, **budding** and **bulbs**.
- Forced methods (by humans) include **cuttings**, **layering** and **divisions**.



runner



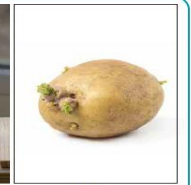
bulbs



budding



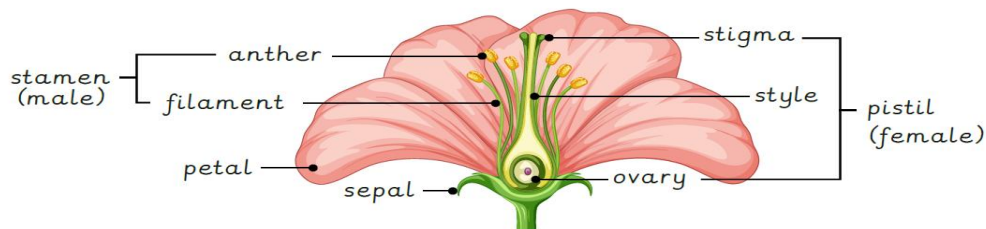
cutting



tuber

Sexual reproduction

- Pollen is transferred from the male anther of one flower to the female stigma of a flower on another plant.
- Pollen can be transferred by insects, wind or other animals.
- Fertilisation** happens when the male **pollen** reaches the **ovary** and combines with the female ovules.
- The fertilised ovule then develops into a seed, which can be dispersed by wind, air or animals.
- Seeds can then grow into new plants, starting the plant life cycle again.



R.E.

It is better to get wisdom than gold.

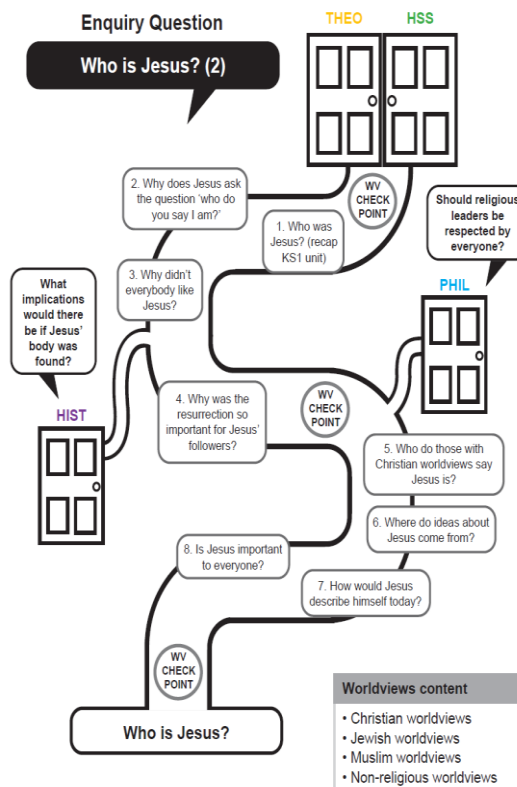
It is better to choose understanding than silver.

Proverbs 16:16



Enquiry Question

Who is Jesus? (2)



RE - Who is Jesus?

This term in RE, Squirrels are exploring the big question: Who is Jesus? Children will dive into Bible stories, Christian beliefs and the different titles Jesus is given – piecing together clues to understand his identity like real RE detectives.

They'll also explore Jesus' big question to his disciples: "Who do you say I am?" By comparing Gospel stories, children uncover why this mattered – and why Jesus didn't always match people's expectations of the Messiah.

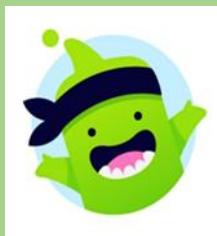
Last Part....

PE & Brain Boosts



PE will take place on **Tuesday mornings**, so trainers and PE kit may be worn on this day. On **Fridays**, we'll be giving our brains a workout too – mindfulness sessions that help children strengthen focus, calm busy thoughts, and build emotional resilience. It's like PE... but for the mind.

Staying Connected



Got a question, a proud moment, or a little story from home? Send me a message on Dojo – I love hearing from you and check it regularly. ParentMail will continue to be your go-to for dates, events, and updates.

A Few Helpful Reminders

- Please make sure **every item** your child brings is clearly labelled – it saves a LOT of detective work.
- To keep classrooms calm and clutter-free, children should only bring their **reading book** each day. We've got all the stationery covered.
- **Water bottles** should come in daily, filled with **water only** (no squash or juice). Hydrated brains = happy learners!

Here's to a Bright, Busy, Brilliant Half Term!

Kindest regards,

Miss Morys

Riddle Time!

I stash tiny treasures
everywhere, but forget where
they've been put. I'm fast, fluffy,
and obsessed with my little
"forest jewels" – Who am I?