



Newsletter

Summer Term



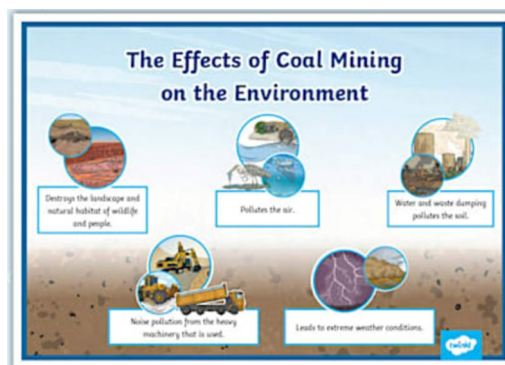
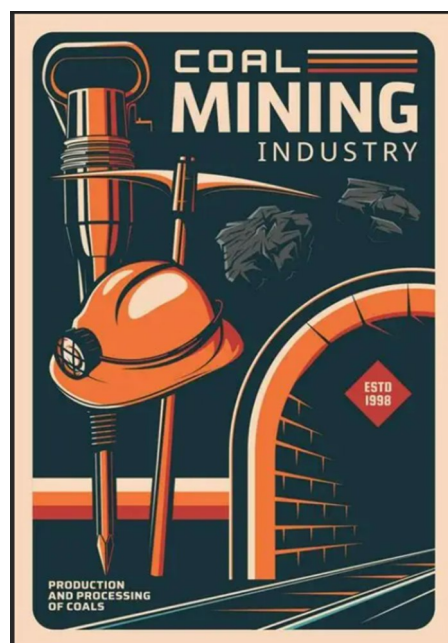
Our Topic: Coal Mining

Throughout the term, we will be working to answer the question **How did coal mining shape the lives of people in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire, and what were its positive and negative impacts on people and the landscape?**

We will be investigating the ways in which coalfields developed in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire due to rich underground coal seams formed millions of years ago; how the physical geography made this region suitable for mining.

We will also be looking at how coal powered railways, factories and steel production, helping towns such as Sheffield and Mansfield expand rapidly.

Many of you (as I have!) will have had relatives who were miners. Our very own Mr. Purchase was one, and we will be drawing on his knowledge and memories. We will be looking at the ways mining villages had strong community identity but faced poverty, health risks and hard living conditions.



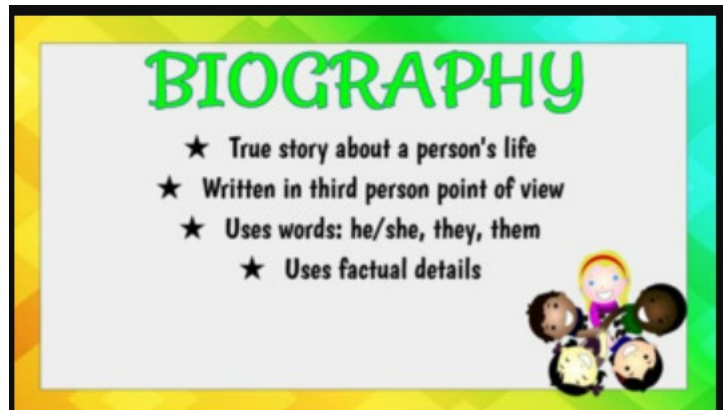
English: Writing

Our Summer 1 focus will be non-fiction, specifically biography. The pupils will be interviewing Mr. Purchase about his life, discussing his experiences as a coal miner, before turning this into a short biography about him. We will be looking at skills such as chronology, cohesion between and within paragraphs, and writing in an informative yet engaging tone. If you have access to any biographies, either in paper form or online, please do encourage your child to have a look as this will help them to really nail that tone.

The pupils produced some truly fabulous writing last term—particularly their fiction work based around *Where the World Turns Wild*. I'm eager to see what they have up their sleeves this time around!

We are continuing to have a big whole school push on driving the highest possible standards of presentation, so please keep focusing on handwriting at home as it makes a huge difference.

Finally, my best advice on how to become a good writer is quite simple—be an avid reader! As if by osmosis, your child will develop the vocabulary, rhythms and structures of an author.



English: Reading & Novel Study

Please continue to support your child at home by listening to your child read at least four times a week. To have the greatest impact while reading with your child, please ask them questions about the characters, plot and any key information. This should be recorded in their reading diary, which Mrs Wagstaff checks regularly.



In Novel Study this term, we are focusing on the VIPERS skills (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explaining, Retrieval and Summarising). Throughout the lessons, we encourage the children to make predictions about what could happen next; infer how the characters feel and why; summarise what has happened so far; and explain the meaning of new words.

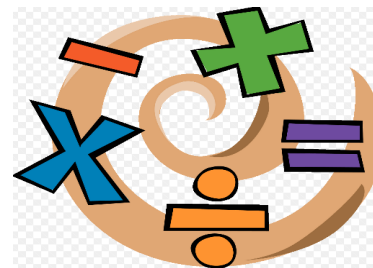
We will be continuing to read 'The House with Chicken Legs' in Novel Study. It simply has to be one of the best children's books I've ever read, and I know the children are loving it too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for funding the Nicola Penfold author visit, which took place in the final week of the half term. It was absolutely fascinating. Whilst we won't be studying any more of her books, I would encourage you if possible to go out there and hunt down her other works—I certainly will be!

Maths

As previously mentioned, you can follow along our Oak Academy Maths journey:

[Free KS2 Maths teaching resources | Y3, 4, 5, & 6 | Page 1 of 5](#)
[| Oak National Academy](#)



Our remaining units of learning for the year are as follows:

59	Multiply 3 or more numbers (commutative and associative laws)	Year 5	5 lessons
60	Understand and use the concept of factorisation (square and prime numbers)	Year 5	5 lessons
61	Use common factors and multiples to solve calculations efficiently	Year 5	5 lessons
62	Multiply a proper fraction by a whole number	Year 5	5 lessons
63	Multiply improper fractions and mixed numbers by a whole number	Year 5	5 lessons
64	Find unit and non-unit fractions of whole numbers exploring parts and wholes	Year 5	10 lessons
65	Comparing fractions using equivalence and decimals	Year 5	15 lessons
66	Converting units	Year 5	10 lessons
67	Angles: compare, name, estimate and measure angles	Year 5	15 lessons

Science

In science this term, we will be studying 'Human Development', and the ways in which the human body changes over the course of a lifetime.

Art

In art this half term, we will be focusing the work of Norman Cornish, looking at techniques such as shading, proportion and perspective as we create works in his style, which was often themed around coal mining.

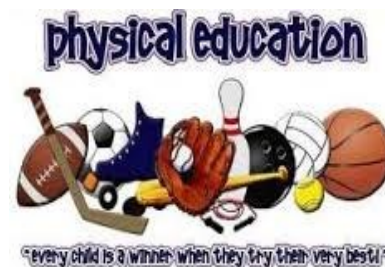


PE

Year 5 PE is on a Monday and Wednesday.

However, as weather can affect the timetables please ensure PE kits are always in school and taken home on a Friday.

Fingers crossed for the same lovely warm and dry weather we had last summer—in which case Mr. Brooks will take the children outside as often as possible.



Dates For Your Diary

Carsington Water trip: Wednesday, 22nd April

PE: Every Monday and Wednesday

Break up for Half Term:

Thursday 21st May, 2026

Friday 22nd May is an INSET Day

Back to school after Half Term:

Monday 1st June, 2026



Homework

Times tables: We are aiming for fast recall of times tables in Year 5, including divisions. Please encourage your child to use TT Rockstars. If they need their password sending home again, please do ask, either in person or via ClassDojo.

Spellings: Your child will bring home spellings each week based around a spelling rule. Please recap the spelling rule so they are able to apply the rule to any spellings that follow the rule. We will have a quick spelling test on a Monday morning, to test knowledge of the words sent home the week before.

Reading: Your child will bring home their reading book and diary each day. Please listen to them read a minimum of four times a week. Please ask questions about the book, character and about new vocabulary after they have read. This will positively impact on their ability. Any questions about recommended books or reading please ask as reading has huge focus within the classroom. Please fill in the diary when you have listened to them read and this will be checked at the end of the week.

Year 5 Teaching Team

Mr Tilstone - Teacher

Mrs Wagstaff - Teaching Assistant

Class Dojo

I am finding Dojo a highly useful way to communicate with you and to receive communications, including photos and videos of the children's many and varied extra-curricular activities, which I love sharing with the class. It will continue to be our main form of communication.