



YEAR SIX



Welcome Back



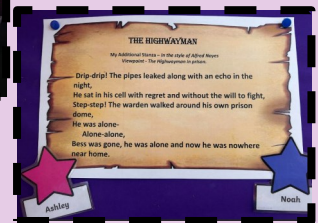
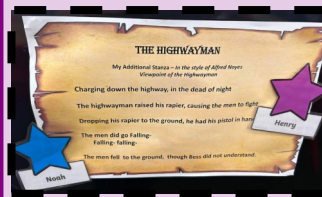
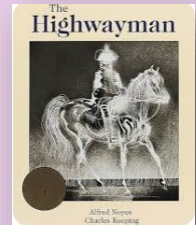
We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and enjoyed some quality time with loved ones. We are excited to see what 2025 brings!

This year sees us launch into our next topic 'Fossil Hunters' where Year 6 will become Natural Historians and scientists as they discover theories of adaptation and evolution. In our English lessons, we will be reading and writing our own biographies about the famous naturalist Charles Darwin before evolving into journalists to write articles about the recent discovery of mammoth remains. As artists, we will be practising our observational skills and using a variety of mediums to sketch fossils and ammonites. We look forward to sharing the finished pieces.



The Highwayman

Last term, we delved into the famous work of Alfred Noyes who wrote the narrative poem, The Highwayman. From writing our own additional stanzas to writing letters in role from a chosen character's viewpoint, Year 6 really produced some outstanding work. Here are just a few examples of their efforts...



Our Class Reader

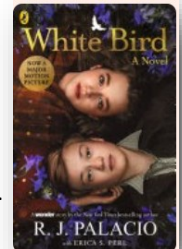
We have introduced another new book into our Reading Spine: 'Skellig' written by David Almond. This follows our previous class reader perfectly as it was actually read by the main character in 'The Final Year' and was a huge inspiration for the author. Please do find time to discuss the story with your child.



Booktalk!

An unforgettable, 'unputdownable' story about strength, courage and the power of kindness to change hearts, build bridges, and even save lives.

Written as both a novel and a graphic novel, this book tells the story of a young girl, Sara, living in German-occupied France during WW2. It follows on from the hit book 'Wonder' and is definitely worth a read.



Important Information

Bevan PE days

Outdoor– Tuesday
Indoor– Friday

Shakespeare PE Days

Outdoor– Tuesday
Indoor– Friday

Malala PE Days

Outdoor– Monday
Indoor– Thursday

Tabei PE Days

Outdoor– Wednesday
Indoor– Monday

Homework is set and due in on a Friday.

Uniform Reminder

Just a couple of reminders:

- ◆ Please ensure that children wear completely black school shoes or trainers on non PE days.
- ◆ Please ensure correct PE kit is worn and long hair tied back.
- ◆ Normal uniform may be worn instead of a PE kit.
- ◆ Children may bring a pair of slippers to school to wear inside the classroom/corridors.

Key dates

Parents' evenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wednesday 12th March 3:30-7:00pm ▶ Thursday 13th March 3.30 -6:30 pm
Trip to Sainsbury Art Centre – Benin (TBC)	▶ Wednesday 19 th March or Wednesday 26 th March TBC
SATS Week	▶ Monday 12 th - Thursday 15 th May 2025
Sports Day	▶ 25 th June (provisional date)
PGL Residential to Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire (PROVISIONAL)	▶ Sunday 29 th June - Wednesday 2nd July 2024
Leavers' Assembly	▶ Thursday 17 th July - am
Leavers' Party	▶ Thursday 17 th July - pm
High School Transition Days	▶ Friday 18 th / Monday 21 st / Tuesday 22 nd July

Fossil Hunters.

What are fossils?

A fossil is any preserved remains, impression or trace of any once-living thing from a past geological age. They are created a **prehistoric** plant or animal and examples include bones, shells, exoskeletons or imprints which are embedded in rock and preserved in a petrified form.

A fossil hunting scientist who studies fossils is known as a **Paleontologist**. They examine different parts of the fossil to understand the lifestyle, diet, growth and movement of a plant or animal when it was alive.

With the help of modern technology, scientists can now look inside a fossil without having to break it open and risk damaging it. X-ray cameras and scanners can show delicate internal parts that may otherwise be difficult to study.

Inheritance

Inheritance refers to the characteristic traits which are genetically passed on to offspring (animal) young from their parents. E.g. hair colour, height etc. Some of these can be seen physically however others are invisible, hidden in our genetic code (DNA).

Adaptation
Adaptation is the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment. These are any physical or behavioural characteristics of an animal or plant to help it survive in its environment. Once the organisms are suited to live there, it is known as their **habitat**. When a habitat changes, the animals or plants that live there are affected and must adapt in order to survive.

Darwin famously observed that there were many forms of finches that had different beak sizes and shapes. Once he considered the food sources of each finch, he noted to reasons for these adaptations.

Evolution
Evolution is the process by which different kinds of living organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the Earth, over several generations, in line with their environment. Evolution relies on there being **genetic variation** in a population which affects the physical characteristics (phenotype) of an organism. Individuals with characteristics best suited to the environment are more likely to survive – 'survival of the fittest' – and pass on their genes to their offspring.

Charles Darwin's **Theory of Evolution** by natural selection (first formulated in Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species" in 1859) is the process by which organisms change over time as a result of changes in inheritable physical or behavioural traits.

'Fossil Hunters' Knowledge Organiser

What is a fossil?

A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a **dead organism**. Fossils are formed through a process with multiple stages called **fossilisation**, and this takes place over many, many years.

The conditions for fossilisation

It's very rare for living things to become fossilised. After most animals die, their bodies usually rot away and nothing is left behind.

However, under certain special conditions, a fossil can form. After an animal dies, the soft parts of its body decompose. The hard parts, like the skeleton, are left behind. They become buried by small particles of rock called sediment.

As more layers of sediment build up on top, the sediment around the skeleton begins to compact and turn to rock. The bones then start to be dissolved by water that seeps through the rock. Minerals in the water replace the bone, leaving a rock replica of the original bone called a fossil.



What is Evolution?

Evolution describes the gradual changes that happens in the same species, living in the same location, over a long time. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously evolving – even today!

What is Inheritance?

When parents have offspring, they pass on their physical traits. The offspring inherit these genetic qualities. This means that most offspring look like their parents but they are not identical. The offspring may like characteristics from the father, the mother or a



Key

Evolution	A change over a long period of time
Fossil	The preserved remains of an organism (plant or animal)
Adaptation	The process of changing to suit a particular environment
Variation	The difference between living things within a species
Inheritance	Passing on characteristics from parent to offspring
Species	Organisms with similar characteristics
Offspring	The animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species
Characteristic (trait)	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species
Habitat	Refers to a specific area or place in which particular animals and plants can live.
Natural selection	The process where living things that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.



What is adaptation?

Adaptations are any physical or behavioural characteristics of an animal that help it to survive in its environment. Living things are adapted to their habitats. This means that they have special features that help them to survive. It's not just animals that are adapted to their environment, plants are too!

Living things	Adaptation	Adapted to
pepper hen	Its white fur makes it blend in with the ground.	desert
camel	It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.	desert
cactus	It stores water in its stem.	desert
baton	Its narrow, long airfoil (it is not a real) fish and insects.	mountain

What is Variation?

Characteristics are inherited from both parents but the way they combine creates variations, making the offspring unique. For example, humans may get blue eyes from our Mum, but brown hair from our Dad. The inherited characteristics are combined in different ways, which is the reason why siblings (brothers and sisters) inherit the same characteristics but are not identical to each other. Even identical twins that share the exact same combination of DNA are not 100% the same.

Who was Charles Darwin?

Charles Darwin
Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury in 1809 and was a child prodigy. He went to the University of Cambridge and worked on the HMS Beagle in 1831 and was responsible for collecting most of the scientific data and ideas of the evolution theory from our world. The inherited characteristics are combined in different ways, which is the reason why siblings (brothers and sisters) inherit the same characteristics but are not identical to each other. Even identical twins that share the exact same combination of DNA are not 100% the same.

Who was Mary Anning?

Mary Anning was born on 21st May 1799 and lived at her home in Lyme Regis, Dorset, England. She is recognised as a pioneer in the field of paleontology. The study of fossils and is considered as the greatest fossil hunter of all time. In 1831, at the age of 32, she discovered a complete skeleton of a pterosaur, named Ichthyosaurus, meaning 'fish lizard'. She also discovered a Plesiosaurus (long-necked sea monster) and a Plesiosaurus (long-necked sea monster) in 1831 at the age of 47.

Click on the link below to view in more detail:



Link to the Year Six Curriculum section on our website:

