Year 5 and 6: Into the Unknown! Summer 1st half term

English Maths

For our first unit, we will continue developing our narrative writing skills, in pieces inspired by the polar regions. We will base our writing on well-known fables and adapt them to fit the purpose, audience and form while including grammatical features such as dialogue.

We will then focus on the features of a persuasive letter and apply this in a piece of writing to Ernest Shackleton convincing him to allow us on his expedition.

Year 5 will begin the summer term learning about shape and applying their knowledge of angles from Year 3/4. Towards half term, we will explore position and direction, using star words such as coordinates, reflection and symmetry. Year 6 will be following a similar programme of study whilst consolidating their maths knowledge from KS2 prior to SATs.

Hook Day

On Hook Day, we will be investigating whether ice melts more quickly in fresh or saltwater (against a control) and then we'll find out why. We'll go on to research Ernest Shackleton, the man, his character and his expedition. Following this, we'll be reading,

Topic (Geography)

Using globes and maps, looking at longitude and latitude we'll identify the Polar Regions, focusing mainly on Antarctica. We will look at the meteorology of the region and use technical descriptions such as arid. We will consider reasons for season differences between here and there. We will learn about glaciers (what they are and how they move) as well as crevasses and threats Antarctica faces. We'll also think about how we can protect the polar environment.

During the Innovate stage, we'll be using our scientific and geographical knowledge to describe features of a plant that will thrive in Antarctic conditions. We will consider the different variables: environment, climate, weather and predators. To express our knowledge, we will present a description of our plant's survival in the style of Sir David Attenborough. Some of us are even going to consider plant adaptations needed in order to survive future world changes.

Science

In Science, we will be looking at being able to use and create our own classification keys to sort a variety of organisms which will demonstrate the biodiversity that Antarctica has to offer and how different species can be classified. We will consider unusual features in order to determine differences between plants found living in Antarctica. We will design our own plant that could survive in the harsh and unforgiving ecosystem. We will be discussing the features of Antarctica as a habitat and decide which biome it can be labelled as.

Other subjects

PE - Athletics and Cricket

RE - This half term, we will be learning about aspects of the Hindu (Sanatana Dharma) religion.

We will consider the concept of commitment and how we demonstrate it in our lives. We will learn about the significance of Puja and how Sanatanis worship and show devotions to the gods and goddesses.

PSHE - We will learn about the importance of self-esteem and ways this can be boosted. In addition, we will be learning about age-limits and also age-appropriateness. Within these lessons, we will be introduced to the SMARRT internet safety rules and they apply these in different situations.

In Art, we'll be using watercolours to create beautiful arctic landscapes, using a variety of painting techniques.

In French, we will develop an understanding about the geographical location, weather, physical features and fauna in a variety of French speaking countries. By the end of the half term, we will be producing a leaflet to persuade someone to visit a French speaking country.

Recommended reading list

Book title	Author
The Call of the Wild	Jack London
Polar Regions (Planet	Steve Parker
Earth)	
Kaspar: Prince of Cats	Michael Morpurgo
Arctic and Antarctic	DK
You Wouldn't Want to	Jen Green
Be on Shackleton's	
Polar Expedition!	
Scott of the Antarctic	Evelyn Dowdeswell,
	Julian Dowdeswell
	and Angela Seddon
Extreme Weather	Thomas M. Kostigen
(National Geographic	
Kids)	
Northern Lights - The	Philip Pullman
Graphic Novel	
Weather (Earthwise)	Jim Pipe
Shackleton's Journey	William Grill
Trapped by the Ice!:	Michael McCurdy
Shackleton's Amazing	
Antarctic Adventure	