

YEAR 5 AND 6 ENGLISH OVERVIEW

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
Cycle A 2025/26	Populating Britain		Healthy Me, Healthy Planet		World War II	Making My Voice Heard
ENGLISH	<p>Science Fiction: Boy in the Tower Explore the science fiction genre, examining characterisation and settings in this superb story. Revise relative clauses and learn how to use the subjunctive for hypotheticals. Write a story using the same setting.</p> <p>Poems on a Theme: Poetry from Diverse Voices This engaging poetry block blends reading, performance, and creative writing, building students' skills in poetic techniques, modal verbs, and punctuation. Emphasizing diversity and self-expression, it encourages students to write authentically, share their voices, and engage in meaningful discussions.</p>	<p>Classic Fictions: The Iron Man Using <i>The Iron Man</i>, explore settings and characters through role-play. Learn to write cohesively using adverbials and conjunctions. Use expanded noun phrases to create vivid descriptions. Put it all together to write a new story about the Iron Man.</p> <p>Interview and Articles: Black and British Using David Olusoga's fantastic book, research Black Britons and their role in British history. Use active and passive voice to change the tone of writing and study formal and informal language. Ask insightful interview questions, write a blogpost and news article.</p>	<p>Reports and Recounts: Space Use <i>Hidden Figures</i> and <i>Curiosity - The Story of the Mars Rover</i> to explore the features of non-fiction texts. Learn to use cohesive devices and parentheses. Write a double-page spread about Mars Rovers and write a diary entry as part of the Mars rover mission team.</p> <p>Biographies: Rise Up Enjoy and discuss a range of inspirational biographies from <i>Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories</i>. Learn the difference between active and passive voice and how to use the perfect form of verbs. Research, plan and write a biography.</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Rise Up: Ordinary Kids</i></p>	<p>Adventure Stories: Holes Immerse your class in the world of <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar while exploring characters, setting and atmosphere. Explore expanded noun phrases and formal/informal language in the context of dialogue and narration. Write and illustrate your own chapter for <i>Holes</i>.</p> <p>Poems on a Theme: Poems from a Green and Blue Planet Read and enjoy a selection of poems from this wonderful anthology. Focus on poetic features and language, looking at their effects on the reader. Explore synonyms and antonyms using dictionaries and thesauruses. Express</p>	<p>Modern Fiction: Framed Inspire your class with the funny and moving <i>Framed</i> by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Explore story openings, anecdotes, common sayings, formal and informal language and role play. Compare the register of the narrator's descriptions of art to that of The National Gallery. Create impact through sentence structure and edit writing to bring it 'to life'.</p> <p>Reports: Survivors Share exciting real-life survival stories from <i>Survivors</i> by David Long and find out about the Tham Luang cave rescue. Investigate relative clauses and cohesion between and within paragraphs. Write different types of reports including a podcast episode.</p>	<p>Persuasive Writing: Historic Speeches Explore some of the speeches in <i>Talking History</i>; examine the structure and learn about rhetorical terms. Use Martin Luther King's speech <i>I have a dream</i> to learn how modal verbs, parentheses and active and passive voice are useful in persuasive writing. Research, write and deliver a speech on an issue important to the children.</p> <p>Poems on a Theme: I am Unique Explore poems about identity, thoughts and feelings using <i>Life Doesn't Frighten Me</i> and <i>Being Me: Poems about Thoughts, Worries and Feelings</i>. Learn to use expanded noun phrases, modal verbs and adverbs of possibility. Create an</p>

	<p>Reports: Awesome Oceans Use <i>My Encyclopedia of Very Important Oceans</i> to revise key features of information texts. Research and create information pages for younger children. Learn to use complex punctuation and cohesive devices.</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>My Encyclopedia of Very Important Oceans</i> Dorling Kindersley</p>		<p>with <i>Extraordinary Stories</i> by Amanda Li</p> <p>Humorous Stories: The Day the Screens went Blank Have fun exploring comic technique and writing a funny story using <i>The Day the Screens went Blank</i> as inspiration. Use modal verbs and adverbs of possibility to describe characters' emotions. Discuss 'old technology' and practise using commas, colons and semi-colons correctly.</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>The Day the Screens went Blank</i> by Danny Wallace</p>	<p>ideas and thoughts creatively in their own poetry.</p>	<p>Short Stories: Happy Here Enjoy reading a selection of stories from <i>Happy Here</i>, exploring character, setting and plot. Learn about relative clauses and adverbials of time. Plan and write a short story based on <i>A House Like No Other</i> involving a character who grows in confidence after finding a magical item.</p>	<p>illustrated poetry book, write powerfully about something you care about.</p> <p>Instructions and Explanations: Adventures Enjoy reading a selection of pages from <i>The Lost Book of Adventure</i>. Jump into your own wild camping adventure as you learn how to write effective dialogue, investigate different biomes, explore the use of bullet points and write instructional texts</p>
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English KEY TEXTS	<p>Essential Text: <i>Boy in the Tower</i> by Polly Ho-Yen</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Wicked World!</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah <i>Spin!: 10 Exciting New Voices in Poetry</i> by Joseph Coelho <i>What is Race? Who are Racists? Why Does Skin Colour Matter? And Other Big Questions</i> by Claire Heuchan and Nikesh Shukla</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>The Iron Man</i> by Ted Hughes</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Black and British – An illustrated history</i> by David Olusoga Other texts provided in resources</p> <p>Optional Texts: <i>Little Leaders – Bold Women in Black History</i> by Vashti Harrison <i>Little Leaders – Exceptional Men in Black History</i> by Vashti Harrison</p>	<p>Essential Texts: <i>Hidden Figures - The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race</i> by Margot Lee Shetterly <i>Curiosity – The Story of a Mars Rover</i> by Markus Motom <i>Meet Jessica Watkins: Meet the first black woman to work on the ISS</i> (link provided)</p> <p>Optional Texts: Selection of non-fiction books about Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Dr Christine Darden, Mars, Space, the Mars rovers.</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Poems from a Green and Blue Planet</i>, edited by Sabrina Mahfouz</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>Framed</i> by Frank Cottrell-Boyce</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Survivors: Extraordinary Tales from the Wild and Beyond</i> by David Long</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>Talking History</i> by Joan Haig and Joan Lennon</p> <p>Essential Texts: <i>Life Doesn't Frighten Me</i> by Maya Angelou <i>Being Me: Poems About Thoughts, Worries and Feelings</i> by Liz Brownlee</p>
Class reads	Beowulf – Michael Morpurgo		Phoenix – S F Said	Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman	The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – C S Lewis	
Cycle B 2026-27	Life as We Know It		Living Things	Electricity	Evolution (How have things evolved over time?)	
ENGLISH	<p>Stories on a Theme: Difference Using <i>The Proudest Blue</i> and <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>, explore the theme of difference. Use noun</p>	<p>Adventure Stories: The Girl Who Stole an Elephant Explore this exciting adventure story, examining characterisation and</p>	<p>Short Stories: African Stories Taking inspiration from <i>Chasing the Sun</i>, study what makes a great short story. Examine characterisation,</p>	<p>Fantasy: Howl's Moving Castle Explore the characterisation and settings in the text and film of <i>Howl's Moving Castle</i>. Compare and contrast the two</p>	<p>Graphic Novels: When Stars are Scattered Explore the brilliant graphic novel <i>When Stars are Scattered</i>, learning about how characters are</p>	<p>Adventure Stories: The Explorer Get lost in Katherine Rundell's wonderful book <i>The Explorer</i>, focusing on character and plot. Revise relative clauses and</p>

	<p>phrases to write evocatively. Write formal and informal letters before planning and writing a story on this theme.</p> <p>Recounts: Races in Frozen Places Explore the frozen wilds! Examine text organisation in <i>Shackleton's Journey</i>, write evaluatively using model verbs and punctuate lists. Summarise events depicted in <i>The Great Serum Race</i> and write a newspaper recount.</p>	<p>descriptive language. Learn how to integrate dialogue and to use expanded noun phrases. Improvise, draft, write and perform a playscript based on the book.</p> <p>Biographies: The Undefeated Starting with the excellent <i>Undefeated</i> explore the biographies of black sports people, activists and authors. Learn about cohesion and explore the subjunctive in formal writing before studying <i>Coming to England</i> and writing a short biography of Floella Benjamin.</p>	<p>setting, structure and story 'hooks'. Revise relative clauses and formal and informal language.</p> <p>Reports: Re-wilding Starting with Catherine Barr's stunning book, <i>Fourteen Wolves</i>, learn about re-wilding. Revise paragraphs, cohesive devices and active and passive voice. Research and write a report about the reintroduction of a UK species.</p>	<p>versions. Write film reviews and fantasy stories. Revise relative clauses and cohesive devices.</p> <p>Poems on a Theme: Portrait Poems Using Rachel Rooney's collection, <i>A Kid in my Class</i>, study different poetic forms. Revise adverbs of possibility and modal verbs and use these to write school reports. Write portrait poems in response to those read.</p>	<p>developed through images and words. Grammar includes writing speech as well as adverbs of possibility and modal verbs.</p> <p>Information Texts: History of Kings and Queens Discover more about kings and queens of Britain and write an information text about a chosen monarch. Look at formal and informal writing in different texts and learn about the active and passive voice.</p>	<p>formal and informal language. Write an exciting new chapter inspired by the book.</p> <p>Instructions and Explanations: Fake News Tackle the tricky issue of Fake News with this excellent block. Learn technical vocabulary, examine texts, carry out fact-checking and write a guide to help others. Incorporates modal verbs and adverbs and organisational devices.</p> <p>Poems on a Theme: Migration 1 week Using Michael Rosen's moving collection of poetry <i>On the Move</i>, spend time appreciating the poems and understanding the story behind them. Be inspired by Quentin Blake's illustrations to write poems on the themes in the collection.</p>
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English Key Texts	<p>Essential Texts: <i>The Proudest Blue</i> by Ibtihaj Muhammad; <i>Perfect</i> by Nicola Davies <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i> by Onjali Rauf</p> <p>Essential Texts: <i>Shackleton's Journey</i> by William Grill <i>The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail</i> by Debbie S Miller Optional texts: Any reference books on Polar travel and exploration</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>The Girl Who Stole an Elephant</i> by Nizrana Farook</p> <p>Essential Texts: <i>The Undeclared</i> by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson <i>Coming to England</i> by Floella Benjamin Optional Texts: <i>Little Leaders – Bold Women in Black History</i> and <i>Little Leaders – Exceptional Men in Black History</i> both by Vashti Harrison <i>Black Heroes: A Black History Book for Kids</i> by Arlisha Norwood <i>Young, Gifted and Black</i> by Jamia Wilson</p>	<p>Essential Texts: <i>Chasing the Sun: Stories from Africa</i>, Edited by Véronique Tadjo. Optional Texts: <i>The Book of Hopes: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain</i> Edited by Katherine Rundell Any reference books on Africa, including atlases, and those on native animals and physical geography</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Fourteen Wolves</i> by Catherine Barr and Jenni Desmond</p>	<p>Essential Texts: <i>Howl's Moving Castle</i> by Diana Wynne Jones <i>Howl's Moving Castle</i> Studio Ghibli Animated Film (90 minutes)</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>A Kid in My Class</i> by Rachel Rooney, illustrated by Chris Riddell</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>When Stars Are Scattered</i> by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed</p> <p>Essential Text: <i>Tony Robinson's Kings and Queens</i> by Tony Robinson</p>	<p>Essential Text: <i>The Explorer</i> by Katherine Rundell</p> <p>Essential Texts: <i>Breaking News: How to Tell What's Real from What's Rubbish</i> by Nick Sheridan Optional Texts: <i>Fake News: True or False Quiz Book</i> by Clive Gifford <i>Question Everything: An Investigator's Toolkit</i> by Susan Martineau</p> <p>Essential Texts: <i>On the Move</i> by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake <i>The Missing</i> by Michael Rosen</p>
English class reads	A Day in the Life Of... A Journey To Discover Our Global Family - Loris Wright		My Mother Saw a Dancing Bear – Charles Causkey	Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan	The Ever-changing Earth – Grahame Baker-Smith	