

Spellings and Grammar: Spelling lessons will develop the children's confidence in attempting to spell unfamiliar words. We will try out method such as spelling games like Beat The Bell in which children have to spot the incorrect spellings at speed and using anagrams so all the right letters are there just in the wrong order! We will also be reminding the children of the Have A Go method - writing a word two or three times and learning to recall which looks most accurate. Once these strategies are in place, we will focus on the use of the able/ible suffix and knowing when suffixes need a double r before moving on to looking at some of the more difficult words from the Year 5/6 spelling list. Throughout the term we will also revisit the grammar taught in previous years to ensure the children can recall and use the terminology correctly and help them to familiarise themselves with the Purple Sentence Menu that they will be using in Year 6.

Days Out: We are planning to visit Down House this term. With its unique place in the history of science and evolution, Down House, the family home of world-renowned scientist Charles Darwin, is a must-see. We will stand in the study where Darwin wrote 'On the Origin of Species', stroll through the gardens that inspired him, and discover his and wife Emma's newly recreated bedroom which overlooks the gardens. Sir David Attenborough will take you on an interactive multimedia tour around the house, and discover how the great man developed his ground-breaking theories.



Useful web links

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/general-science/charles-darwin-and-the-mystery-of-life/>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/science/famous-scientists/charles-darwin/>

Further Reading

- *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell
- *On the Origin of the Species* by Charles Darwin
- *What Mr Darwin Saw* by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom
- *Charles Darwin's Around the World Adventure* by Jennifer Thermes
- *Darwin: An Exceptional Voyage* by Fabien Grolleau
- *The Beagle with Charles Darwin* by Fiona McDonald and Mark Bergin
- *One Beetle too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin* by Kathryn Lasky

Home Learning –You might like to have a go at some of these optional tasks...

- Create a model of a volcanic island. Consider the vegetation and wildlife that may live on the island.
- Design a newly evolved animal e.g. what would eventually happen to giraffes on an island where no tall trees grow? Or camels continuously surrounded by a fresh supply of water? This could be a 2D or 3D creation.
- Create a campaign to raise awareness of the impact of humans on the environments of animals. What can we do to protect them?

Key Vocabulary

Characteristics	Exploration
Correspond Galapagos	Longitude
Blue Footed Booby	Latitude
Red Frigate Bird	Equator
Pacific Ocean	Tropic of Cancer
Charles Darwin	Tropic of Capricorn
Adventure	Coordinates
Natural Selection	Environment
Adaptation	Organisms
Evolution	
Variation	



A Voyage of Discovery

In this Unit pupils will be exploring how adaptation can lead to evolution, whilst recognising that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but that they vary from each other and their parents. They will also investigate variation in response to environment, Darwin's work and how and why the human skeleton has changed since separating from the primates.

Key questions will include:

- What is evolution?
- How does adaptation occur?
- What is the evidence for natural selection?
- How have human beings changed over time?
- How might variation lead to a greater chance of survival?

English – In our English this term we will be focusing on developing our descriptive writing, gaining a rich body of language to feed into our writing. We will be using the text, 'My Family and Other Animals' and the diaries of Charles Darwin to help develop sentence structure and writing for different purposes. We will continue to develop technical SPAG skills and use our Sentence Menu for effect.

Maths

This term in Maths we will be looking at place value and our ability to read and write number. The children will be learning how to recombine and partition numbers in varied ways whilst developing their strategies to support mental calculations. We will also begin to challenge ourselves with weekly Mental Arithmetic assessments which will indicate where the children are in their learning. Our cross curricular Maths will link closely to Darwin's journey to the Galapagos.

Science

This term we will be studying and comparing similarities and differences between various organisms, including human beings, and exploring relationships between variation in different characteristics. We will also be handling data and using graphical representation of evidence gathered and exploring ideas about natural selection, how variation may enable an organism to become suited to an environment and positive and negative adaptations.

Geography and History: We will be using the voyage of the HMS Beagle (Darwin's ship) and Darwin's recounts of the voyage as a springboard from which to find out about: Latitude, Longitude, the Equator, The Northern and Southern Hemispheres and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. We will also be exploring Time zones and Climate zones as well as Vegetation belts and Volcanoes.

Art and DT

This term we will be exploring the work of Leonardo da Vinci with a study of biology/zoology (Art and science of the universe). This will include sketching and using skills of cross hatching and shading. We will also be creating our own 'evolution' totem pole incorporating the main stages of Darwin's theory of evolution.

RE

This term we will be exploring the big question 'Creation and Science: Conflicting or Complementary'. We will outline the importance of Creation on the timeline of the 'big story' of the Bible. We will identify what type of text some Christians say Genesis 1 is, and its purpose and consider different interpretations.