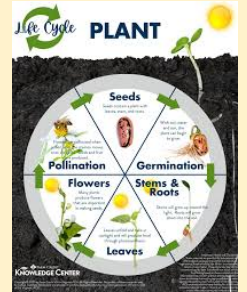


Riverside Primary School
Curriculum Newsletter for Families:
April 2026

Upper Key Stage Two - Year 5/6



This half term our theme is...
**All Creatures Great
and Small**



As we welcome the brighter days and the start of the Summer term, we are delighted to share with you all the exciting learning opportunities planned for the weeks ahead. This newsletter offers an overview of what your child will be exploring in school, as well as some helpful ideas for supporting their learning at home.

What are we learning during this theme?

During the first few weeks of this term, Year 6 will be revising key skills and preparing confidently for SATs week. Year 5 will have extra science lessons with a focus on animals including humans and their life cycles. Alongside this important work, we will continue to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum by basing our foundation subjects around the engaging theme All Creatures Great and Small.

In science, children will be learning about animals, their habitats, and the ideas of evolution and inheritance. They will explore how living things have changed over time, how fossils give us clues about life millions of years ago, and how plants and animals are adapted to survive in different environments.

In RE, we will be investigating the question: *What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?*

Our art unit this half term will see the children take inspiration from the vibrant work of David Hockney as they create their own colourful digital montages.

In ICT, we will be learning about computer systems and networks, helping children to understand how technology around us works.

In music, children will explore improvising with confidence and consider the social question: *How does music shape our way of life?*

Our class reader will continue to be *Who Let the Gods Out* then moving to *The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge, supporting rich discussions and deeper thinking about our reading.



In PE, we will be looking at the skills needed to play rounders. For indoor PE sessions, children will focus on improving their fitness and stamina.

In PSHE/RSE, children will learn basic first aid, sun safety, ways to look after their mental health, and will begin our unit on growing and changing. As part of our **No Outsiders** programme, we will be reading *The Girls* by Lauren Lee and Jenny Lovlie. Through this thoughtful text, children will explore the theme of friendship, learning what friends are, why friendship is important, understanding that sometimes friendships can go wrong, and developing an appreciation for the people around them.

In French, children will develop their ability to read, write, speak and listen about school.

Trips, Visitors and Experiences

We will have a virtual workshop about technology for energy from Tech She Can. We will also be having a virtual first aid workshop.

You can also find more information about our learning on our Medium Term plan and via our Knowledge Organisers, which are available on our school website:

<https://www.riversideprimary.co.uk/curriculum/>

How can you support your child at home?

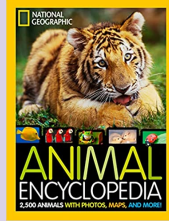
Every week, your child will receive their usual home learning tasks of reading 5 times a week for at least 20 minutes (this must be noted in reading diaries with a parent's signature), spelling practice and either writing or maths homework. In addition to this, please find some suggestions below on how to support your child's learning.

<u>Days out and things to do:</u>	<u>Books to read</u>	<u>Things to watch:</u>
<p>Visit Colchester zoo Colchester Zoo</p> <p>Visit Call of the Wild Call of the Wild Zoo</p> <p>Visit Paradise Wildlife Park Paradise Wildlife Park</p> <p>The Natural History Museum Natural History Museum</p>	<p>When the Mountains Roared by Jess Butterworth </p> <p>Book of Bones by Gabrielle Balkan </p> <p>The Animals of Farthing Wood by Colin Dann </p> <p>Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo </p>	<p>The Lion King </p> <p>Deadly 60 Deadly 60 - CBBC - BBC </p> <p>David Attenborough - A life on Our Planet, Our Planet, Life of Birds, Planet Earth, Frozen Planet, Blue planet, Green Planet</p>

The Akimbo Adventures by
Alexander McCall Smith



Animal Encyclopaedia



If you are unable to visit a zoo there are quite a few zoos in this country and around the world that have online live feeds here are a couple -

<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/liv>

[e-cams](#)

[Edinburgh Zoo Live Panda cam](#)