

Our Values

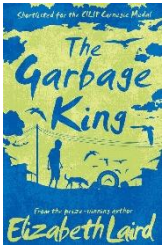
Respect, Kindness, Resilience,
Integrity, Honesty and Trust



Our Rules

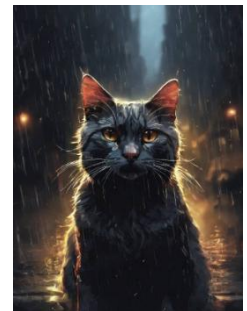
- Do our best
- Be respectful
- Be safe
- Be kind
- Be ready

Year 5's Newsletter Spring 1 2026

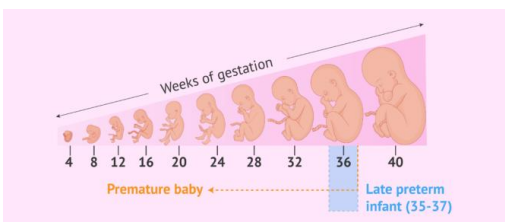


In **Destination Reader**, we have been reading the fantastic book - *The Garbage King* by the author Elizabeth Laird. It is written after Laird spent many years travelling around the world and listening to storytellers in Ethiopia, where our book is based. Children have had the opportunity to learn more about how Ethiopian people lived and the struggles that many people have to endure.

In **Literacy**, we have been exploring a new technique called *Talk for Writing* focusing on suspenseful excerpt from *Zelda Claw and The Rain Cat*. Students have been rehearsing the story through talk and actions to help them better understand the structure of a suspenseful text. They have used this structure to then create their own amazing suspenseful stories.



In **Maths**, we have been focusing on more advanced multiplication and division ahead of returning to fractions in the next half term. It is important that children regularly practise their times tables, particularly if they have been struggling with fractions as what they are about to learn is more complex and relies on good knowledge of times tables.



In **Science**, we are learning about Animals Including Humans. We have been learning about life stages, gestation periods, foetal development, growth and puberty.

In **History**, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and particularly about the amazing discoveries at Sutton Hoo. Whilst it is good to see pictures about these artefacts, we decided it would be even better to visit them in person at the British Museum.



In **RE**, we have been learning about various aspects of the Islamic faith, such as the five pillars and how Muslims pray. To bring this to life, we were very lucky to have been allowed to visit Aziziye Mosque in Stoke Newington to have a tour of the beautiful building and see Duhr

prayer (second prayer of the day). Those who follow the religion were also able to take part in the prayer. It was both fascinating and peaceful.

Many thanks to all parents for helping your child prepare for our class assembly performances. The children did magnificently to learn their lines and we were so proud of them. Many thanks also to those who were able to attend and see the results of their efforts.



Reading with your child every day is very important. Children should read for **30-45 minutes each day** at home. Although a handful of children have been reaching/exceeding their targets, many are falling behind and so we need a bigger push both at home and at school to get back on track. This is especially important in the lead-up to their SATs next year as reading a variety of books regularly and taking quizzes is essential to their reading comprehension skills and a good indicator of whether they will reach the expected level in SATs.



Please also check to see if any Holmleigh books have been left in children's rooms or elsewhere at home and return them as many seems to have gone missing.

Homework will be given on **Friday** and should be returned by the following **Wednesday**. We encourage you to **support your child** in completing their homework, but please **allow them to do the work independently**. If your child is struggling to complete the homework, please speak to us.

Mr Richard and Ms P