

**Dear Parents,
Happy New School Year!**

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely break and are ready for a fun and action-packed 2025/6 with Year 5.

Our creative topic this term will focus on welcoming the children back to school after a lovely summer break. We will study the Shang Dynasty and look at the history and geography of China. We will build in lots of art and creativity as we learn about the impact the Kingdom of China and the Shang Dynasty had and its fascinating culture.

Spellings are taught and practised on a daily basis with a view to using them correctly in our work.

We plan to give out a range of topic tasks as an optional piece of homework. In addition to this, the children **must** read books every day and learn their times tables. As part of the children's numeracy passport, the children are expected to know their times tables facts up to 12×12 . This term we are working really hard to practice this and would like times tables to be a focus. We are continuing with times table practice in school which builds in the skills needed in the Year 5 curriculum.

Our Science topic is Forces which will give us lots of opportunities to scientifically experiment using force and, weather permitting, do these outside.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please do not hesitate in organising a telephone appointment where we can have a chat. Alternatively, you can email Mrs Sinclair at jsinclair@cameverlands.org.uk or Miss Butcher, who will teach our Fridays, at jbutcher@cameverlands.org.uk

In order to encourage independence, children can walk to and from school without their adult supervision. If you do **not** wish your child to have permission to walk home on their own, please let us know in writing.

Facts about the Shang Dynasty:-

1. A system of writing was developed during the Shang Dynasty. They used different pictographs, which are very similar to modern Chinese writing.
2. Although historians believe that the Xia Dynasty was the first Chinese dynasty, there is little archaeological proof that it existed.
3. The Yellow River (or Huang He) is often referred to as 'the cradle of Chinese civilisation' because this is where early Chinese civilisation began. This is likely due to the fertile soil and favourable climate.
4. Tai Wu is thought to be the longest-reigning Shang king. He is believed to have ruled for 75 years, from 1450 to 1375 BC.
5. The capital city of the Shang Dynasty is thought to have changed several times. Historians do not know why this is, but some believe it was a result of flooding.
6. Slaves were often buried alive with the king in his tomb. Eek!
7. Inscriptions in oracle bones reveal that the Shang Dynasty celebrated the Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year. These oracle bones were usually turtle shells or ox shoulder blades. Oracle bones have been discovered with questions on them such as 'will we go hunting tomorrow' or 'will we win the war'.
8. The first Shang king is thought to have built the city of Shang. This city had high walls, possibly to defend itself from flooding. The site of this ancient capital is located near the modern-day city of Zhengzhou.
9. Shells were used as currency during the Shang Dynasty.
10. The Shang used wood and mud to construct buildings. To protect them from flooding, they would make mud banks around them. They would also make defensive structures (walls and towers) out of mud. It was all made of mud!



Information for Parents

Year 5
2025-2026
Term 1

What Made the Shang Dynasty a Dynamic Dynasty?



As always, your support of us in the home is very much appreciated and these are some of the ways in which you can help your child this year:-

- Continuing to read frequently with your child. Questioning your child helps to consolidate the story – if you need any ideas, please jot a request in the reading journal.
- Continuing to help your child to practise their times tables up to 12 x 12 and the corresponding division facts. Useful website or app if you prefer <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths> which practises all the skills we will use in Year 5.

In literacy we will revise comprehension, grammar and spelling activities as well as up-leveiling creative writing. The children will focus on The Phone Booth in Mr Hirota's Garden by Heather Smith as a base for a variety of writing activities including stories, poetry and instruction writing.

In Numeracy we will concentrate this term on place value up to 1,000,000. They will learn the value of 10s, 100s, 1,000s, 10,000s, 100,000s and 1,000,000s and will use place value charts for addition and subtraction using place value. This forms the basis of much of the maths work this year so it is useful to embed this learning first. We will also look at Roman Numerals, adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers and line graphs.

PE will be on Tuesday and Friday. We are covering netball and Communication skills. **Could you please ensure that your child wears their PE kit in on those days and they bring a spare pair of shoes and socks in case of a wet field.** PE kit should consist of jogging bottoms, shorts, t-shirt, trainers (not daps as the field can be wet) and two pairs of socks (ideal if one pair gets wet).

In RE we will be studying the question, "What influence does believing in the Trinity have on Christian worldviews? and will be continuing to consider all religions as a comparison to Christianity in order to achieve a broad outlook

