

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete our recent parent survey - your feedback is invaluable and helps us continue to improve and grow as a school community.

Just a quick reminder of our school closing and opening times coming up:

- School closes for children on Thursday 18th December at 13.00. Children will stay for lunch. There will be no afternoon nursery session that day.
- School reopens for children on Tuesday 6th January at the usual time (gates open at 08.25).

As you may know, there is a particularly strong strain of flu going around at the moment which has caused some pupil and staff absences. We have organised a deep clean of the school and are taking extra precautions around cleaning. Please remind your children of the importance of regular handwashing, so we can limit the effects of any flu in the school.

I also want to draw your attention to our calendar of events – this is being updated with key events taking place in the school: [Thorpe Primary Academy - Calendar of Events](#).

Also, if you've missed any of our parent/carer newsletters, you can find them all here: [Thorpe Primary Academy - Newsletters](#).

Additionally, term dates for the academic year 2026-27 can be found here: [Thorpe Primary Academy - Term Dates & School Timings](#).

Finally, a huge well done to everyone involved in our fantastic nativities and the Rock Steady music concert this week. The performances were truly heartwarming and showcased the incredible talent of our pupils.

Year 5 Camping Opportunity

We are excited to inform you that our Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to take part in an unforgettable experience with Fenland Adventure in the Summer term. This camp will offer children a chance to build confidence, develop teamwork skills, and enjoy a variety of exciting outdoor activities that will include:

- Archery
- Climbing Wall
- Giant Go-Karts
- Midi Fencing
- Target Shooting
- Team challenges

This will take place on Monday 29th June 3pm to Tuesday 30th June 2026 3:20pm, and children will be staying overnight on the school site, in spacious canvas bell tents (there will be separate tents for boys and girls). Fenland Adventure will be providing an overnight watch person to observe the camp throughout the night that is first aid trained. There will also be school staff that are familiar with the children.

The total cost for this is £82.40 (please note that this is discounted for those children eligible for Free School Meals to £41.20) and this includes all the activity sessions, equipment, qualified instructors, as well as the evening meal on the Monday and breakfast and lunch on Tuesday.

Places are limited and your child's space can be secured by paying a deposit of £7.50 by the 18th December 2025, with a payment plan as per below.

Payment Due	Amount (non-FSM pupils)	Amount (FSM pupils)
18 th December 25 (deposit)	£7.50	£7.50
27 th January 26	£19	£9.50
27 th February 26	£19	£9.50
27 th March 26	£19	£9.50
30 th April 26	£17.90	£8.95

You can access further information by visiting the website <https://www.fenlandadventure.co.uk>. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or come to the office.

Foodbanks

If you're finding it difficult to manage food over the holiday period, please know you're not alone and support is available. Our school can provide foodbank vouchers for families who need a little extra help at this time. If you would like to request a voucher or speak confidentially about your situation, please contact Mrs M, who will be happy to assist. No family should face these challenges without support.

Internet Safety

As many of our pupils enjoy socialising and playing games online, we want to support all families in helping children stay safe while they explore the digital world. We encourage parents to have regular, open conversations with their children about who they play with, the platforms they use, and how to manage privacy settings. To help our school community stay informed, we recommend trusted resources such as Internet Matters and NSPCC Online Safety, where you can find clear advice, practical tools, and up-to-date guidance to support your child's online safety. Please see the links below, which also include a short internet safety quiz that can be completed with your child.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/quiz/>

Key Dates Coming Up:

Date	Event
Monday 15 th December	Panto
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th December	Last day of term for children – 13.00 finish
Friday 19 th December	School closed to children
Monday 5 th January	School closed to children
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school

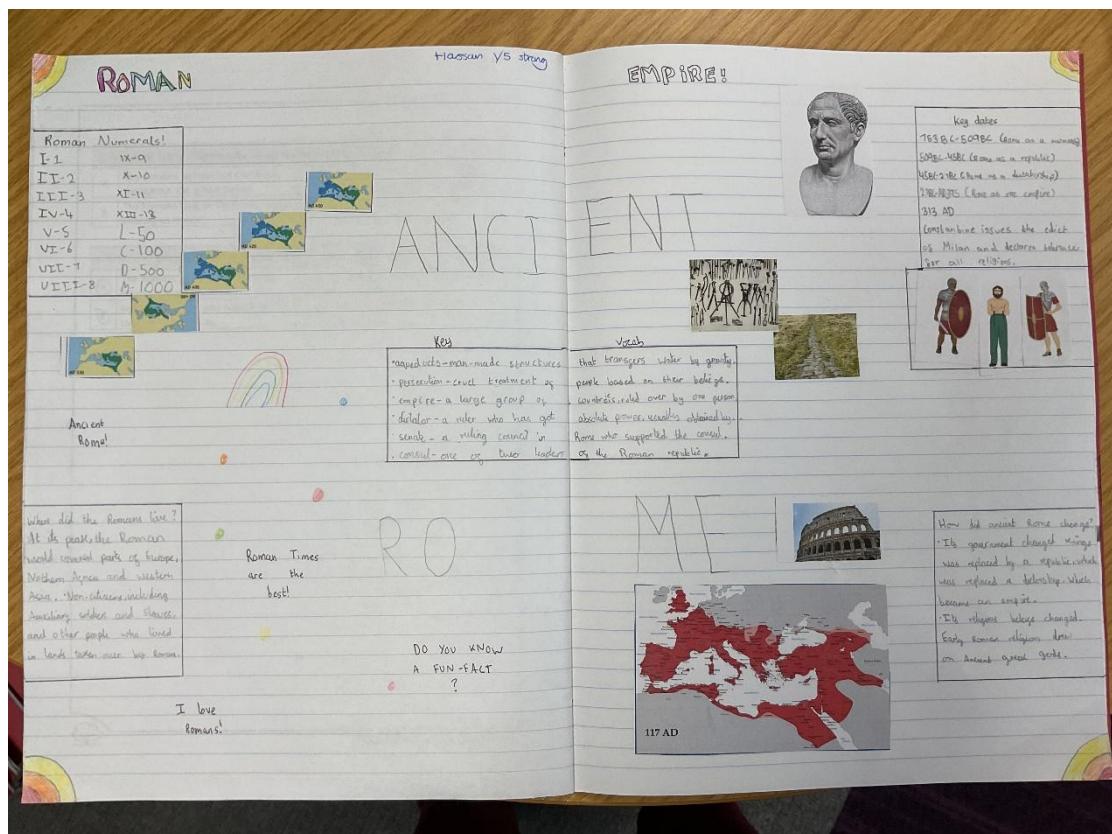
Year 5 Wood Green Workshop

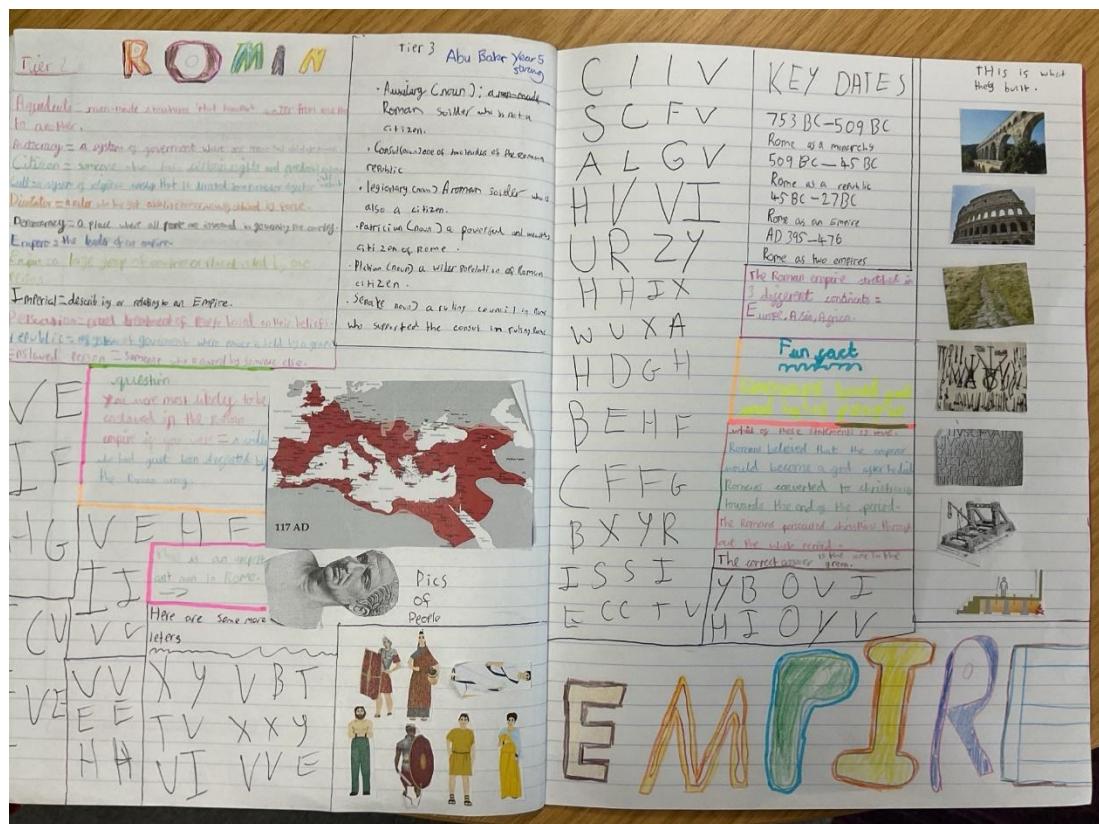
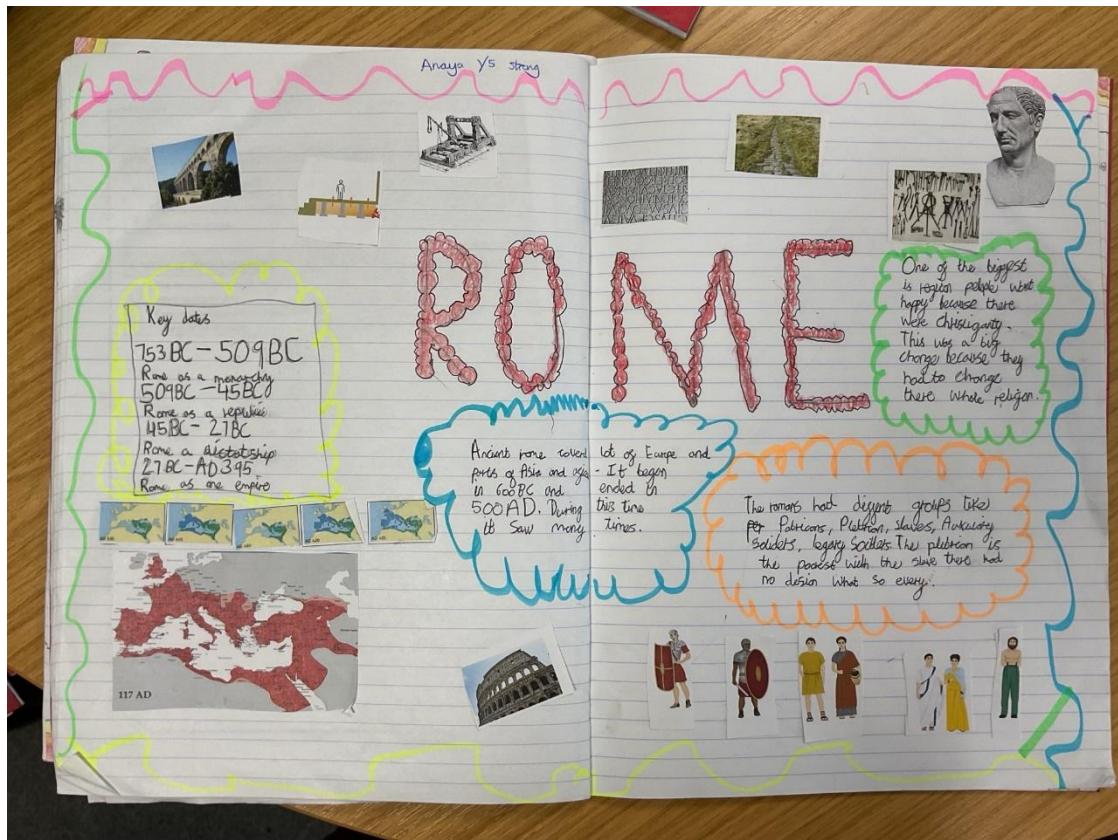
Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic workshop with Wood Green, learning about animal welfare and responsible pet care and how persuasive writing can support charities like Wood Green.



Year 5 History Learning

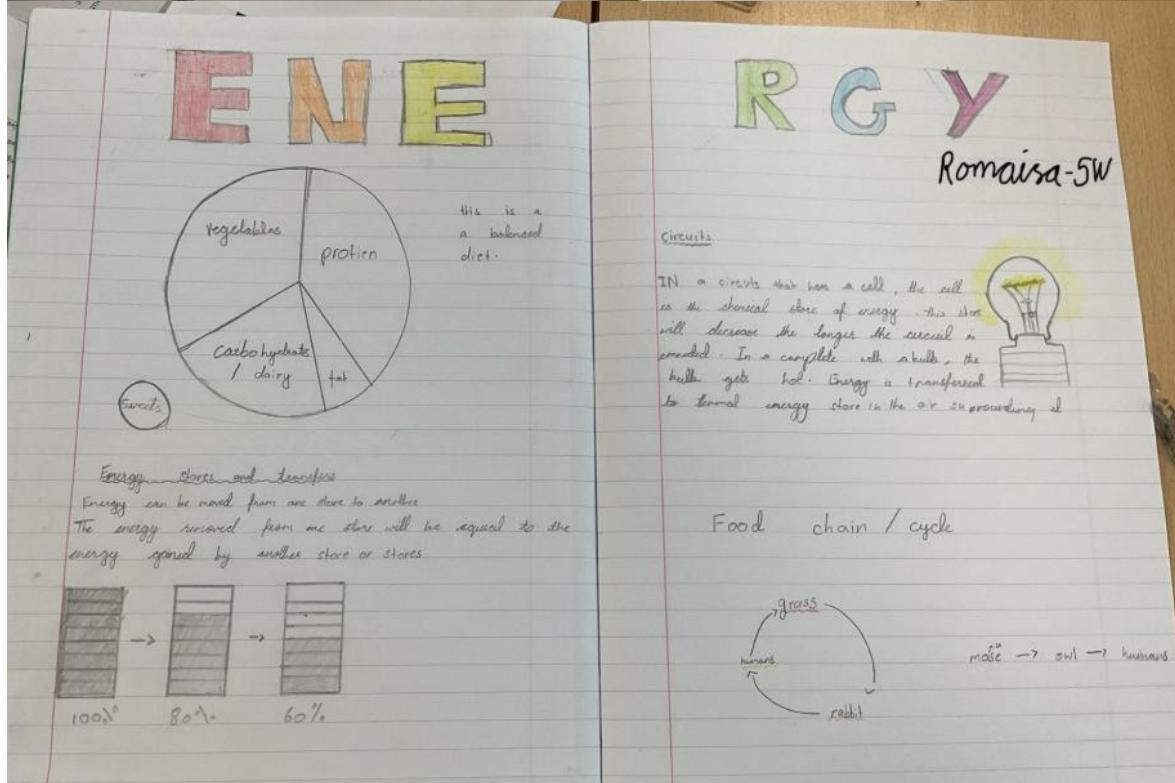
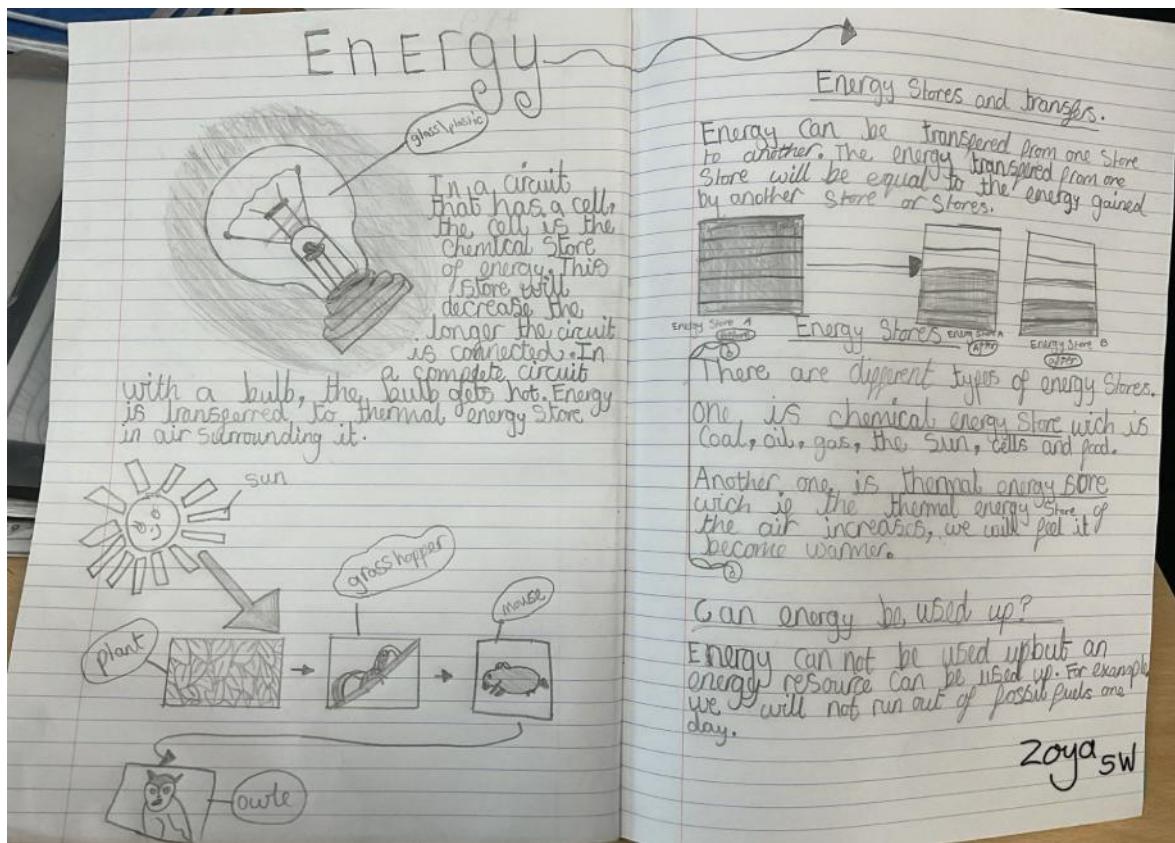
Year 5 have been learning all about Ancient Rome. Here are some examples from 5 Strong. Well done Hassan, Anaya and Abubakar.





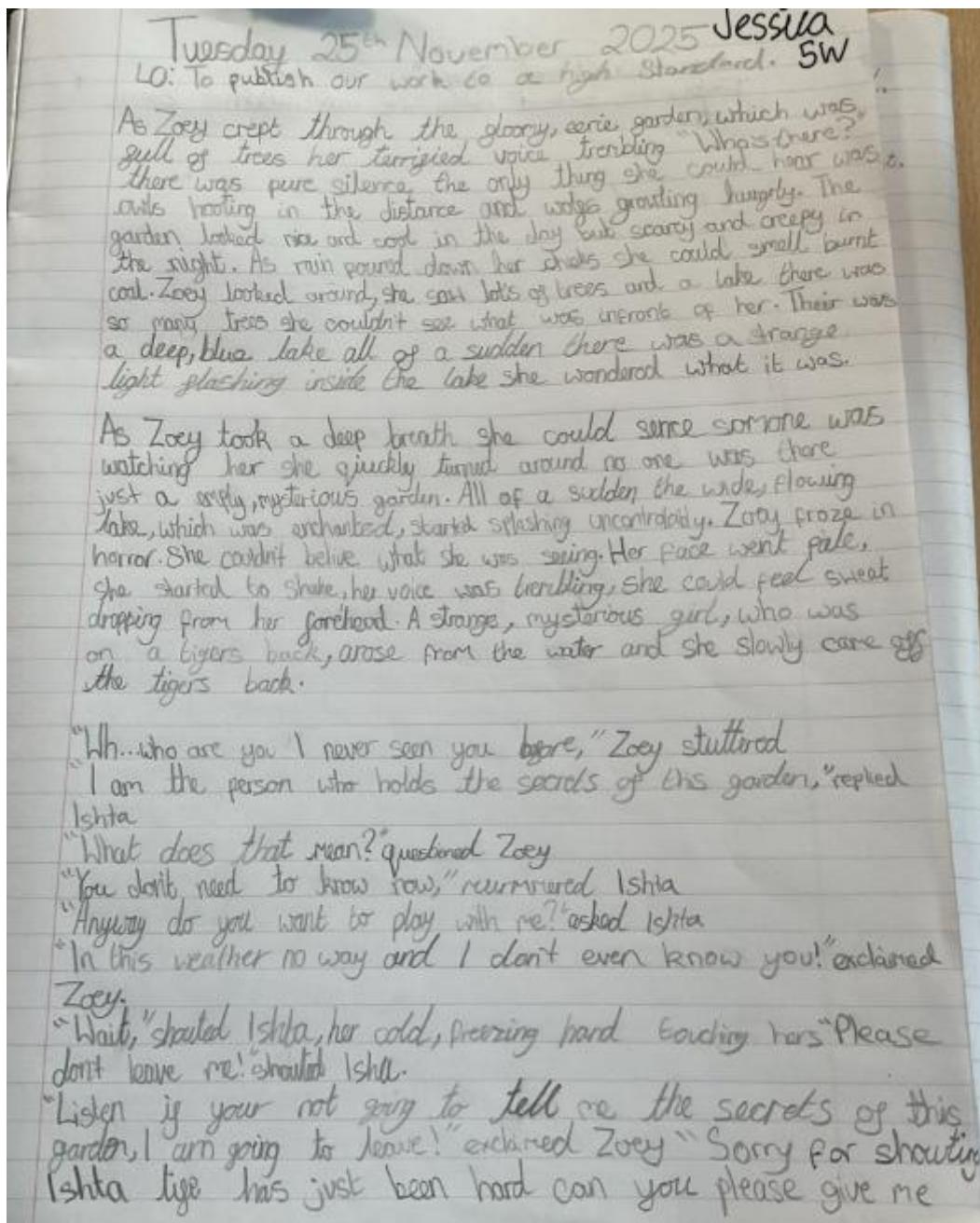
Year 5 Science Learning

In science this term Year 5 have been looking at energy. They have explored energy stores, transfers, food chains and circuits. The children in year 5 have summarised what they have learnt in a double page spread.



Year 5 Writing

Year 5 have been using the book 'Tamarind and The Star of Ishta' to inspire their writing this half term. They wrote a narrative that included description, action and dialogue that focused on Ishta and Tamarind meeting in the garden. Everyone thought carefully about including powerful vocabulary to create a vivid image in the reader's mind. We have been so impressed with the effort year 5 children are putting into their joined up, neat presentation. Here are some examples from Jessica, Aydin, Haya and Ajwa.



Tuesday 25th November 2025 10:10 submit our work to a high standard. Aydin - 5W

Tamarind slowly wandered through the forest which was full of mysteries. Footsteps emerged from behind the huge ancient trees. Someone was here. Could she go back now? Tamarind, who had fear flowing through her body, decided to keep going. As she walked, wolf's wolves' howling came from behind her. Monkeys screamed moving incredibly from tree to tree. Who's there she questioned anxiously.

A bright, shining light caught her eyes, as she walked closer she realized it wasn't a light, it was a huge, abandoned factory. She walked in looking for anyone or a sight of movement. As she entered, she saw a room with a flash of golden fur. Quickly, she approached the room, hands trembling, heart pounding. Opening the door slowly, she realized the golden fur was from a cat and the footsteps were from a lovable, suspicious girl.

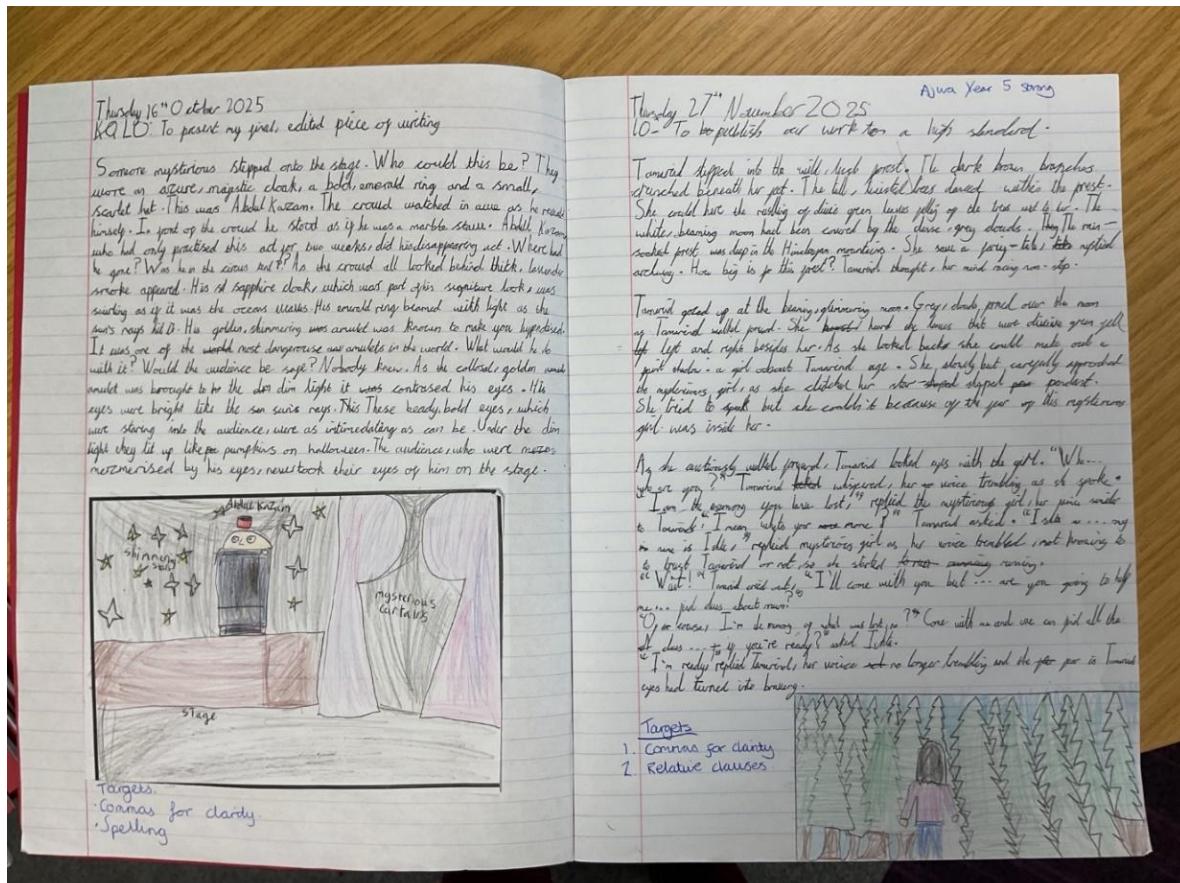
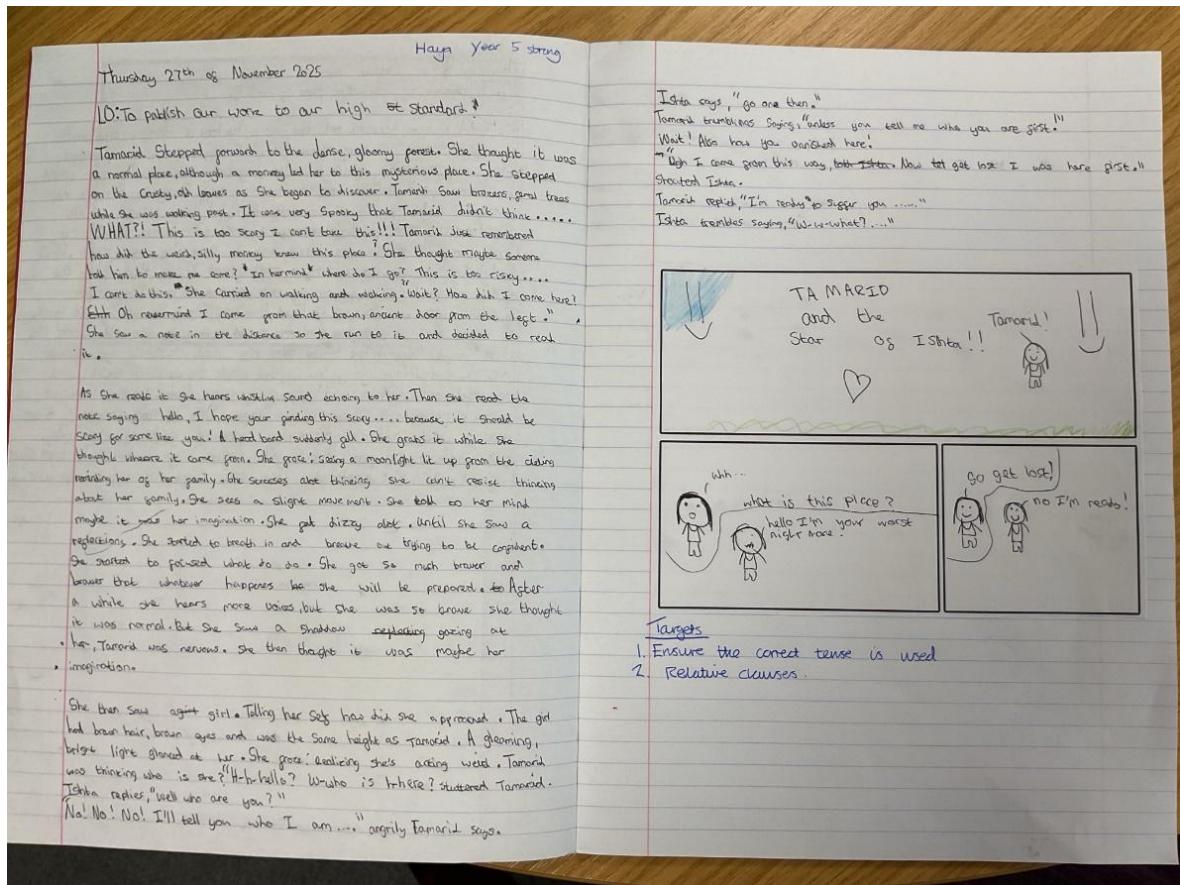
Although Tamarind was terrified, she managed to form the words who are you's? Tamarind asked petrified.

"I, she stared, Am the Star of I Shda and I need to tell you a secret."

"What is it? Please tell me!" Tamarind pleaded at "I am your cousin." she said softly.

"What?" Tamarind said loudly. Your my cousin?"

"I used to live in the house but Nangi kicked me out." Tamarind's face expression dropped.



Year 4 Writing About Brazil

Year 4 have been writing a non-chronological report on Brazil, which they illustrated in their hot write, showcasing their amazing research into this country. They have also been editing their explanation texts about the fascinating digestion topic.

Wednesday 19th November

All about Brazil

Far across the Atlantic Ocean is a big country in South America called Brazil in fact, Brazil is the biggest country in South America and the 5th biggest country in the world. Brazil is bordered by Argentina, Peru and Colombia. In Brazil there are lots of sunny beaches!



The most popular sport in Brazil is football and the most popular footballer is Neymar.



The Christ of the Redeemer is the most famous Landmark in Brazil.



Brazil Map
The map of Brazil has the Amazon Rainforest, the Amazon river and also the capital of Brazil - which is Brasilia.



Copacabana beach
The Copacabana beach is one of the most popular beaches in Brazil and most people go there to swim, relax or tan there.



Conclusion Since Brazil is a hot amazing place to visit with over 6.9 million tourists a year, Brazil is truly a unique location. If Brazil is tropical, it is popular then, you should fly to Brazil!

The complex digestive System

Fantastically, the amazing, important digestive system is important because without our digestive system we would not be able to take the nutrients we need from the food we eat.

First, to start with when you eat food while you chew it, saliva mixes with the food to break it down then it goes through the oesophagus into the stomach where the acidic acid breaks it down after it is broken down it will go down into the small intestine and large intestine where it takes all the nutrients and then the waste is stored then the waste is eliminated.

Reminders:

Parent Shout Outs

If your child's teacher or another member of staff has gone above and beyond, I would love to hear from you. Please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/6r5w1yxP8F>

All the best and have a wonderful weekend,

Mr J Parkhouse
Headteacher