

Year 5 Newsletter- Autumn

Dear Parents /Carers,

We hope you have had a splendid and restful holiday, and like you, we look forward to getting back to school and starting the new school year. We are happy to report that the Year 5 children have settled in well to their new surroundings and have already impressed us with the mature way they have taken to new procedures and routines. Our new class made a great first impression, and we look forward to getting to know them better as the term goes on.

English

Where possible, we try to link the context of our literacy lessons to the topics that we are learning about in other areas of the curriculum. This term, children will learn about Classic Fiction with a strong focus on the work of Rudyard Kipling (includes discussions about the historical context), write explanation texts on the theme of imaginary inventions, and explore and write renga poems. There will continue to be a strong focus on the teaching of grammar and spelling.

As well as taught reading sessions, reading for enjoyment is very important, and so we will have regular storytime. Although we thoroughly enjoy choosing books to read to the class, we also love finding out about new books and welcome any suggestions. We start the year with 'The Explorer by Katherine Rundell'.

Additionally, children are free to choose books from the class library. Even if your child is now a fluent reader, please do take time to share and discuss a book, as this helps further develop comprehension skills. Some question examples can be found inside your child's reading record book. Guidance on using the reading record, details of reading homework expectations, and a reading reward chart can be found on the inside cover.

Maths

The focus for maths this half term is number. The children will continue to develop their understanding of the place value of numbers up to 100,000, including ordering and rounding. We will also learn to add and subtract using formal written methods. Guidance for supporting children with calculations can be found on the school website. Maths homework will be set on a Tuesday and marked in class the following Tuesday.



As I am sure that you are already aware, there is an expectation for children to be able to recall all times table facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. We are aware that this can be a difficult task, and so, as a school, we continue to rehearse these daily. To support children's learning of tables, continue to find the Times Table Rockstars resource for all children. Learning tables daily, in short bursts, helps improve the recall of table facts. If you are having any issues accessing the website, please contact us and we can help resolve any issues.

SCIENCE

Science

In science, our topic for this term is 'Properties and Changes in Materials'. This topic is ideal for carrying out lots of practical work, so there will be a focus on working scientifically, including the concept of fair testing. Many of our experiments will feature everyday kitchen cupboard ingredients, so children may like to explore some of these at home—hopefully, they won't make too much mess!

Other areas of the curriculum

This half term, our **Geography** and **DT** topics will be 'Raging Rivers' and 'Building Bridges'. Children will learn about the geographical features of rivers, undertake a local river study as well as learning about the Wharfe in flood. We will also learn about different types of bridges and how to design and build strong structures. Both of these topics will include a local walk. In the second half of the term, our theme will be Rainforests.

In **Computing** children will learn skills to enable them to become a more efficient computer user. This will include learning about precise and safe internet searches, quick typing, saving and organising work as well as internet safety.

In **PSHE** children will learn about keeping a healthy body and mind. This topic includes teaching strategies for positive mental health.

In **RE** children will discover practices of religions and explore other world views.

In **Music** we will be learning to appraise, sing, play instruments and improvise. As part of this, we will learn songs with the theme of 'Melody and Harmony in music'.

French – this will be taught next half term instead of music. We will recap and build on vocabulary learned in previous years.

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Homework and Planners

In line with the school **homework** policy, the class will have a small homework activity most evenings. Spelling tasks will be sent home on a Thursday after a spelling investigation lesson, with a spelling check the following Wednesday. Larger homework projects are set half-termly and are due towards the end of each half-term; this will more often than not be linked to our topic (details will follow shortly). As mentioned previously, Maths homework will be set on Tuesday and be due on the following Tuesday. Your support with homework is appreciated; if there are any problems or queries, do not hesitate to get in contact. Children should also aim to read for 15-20 minutes a day, and comments should be written in the reading record by an adult as well as the child each week (more details can be found in your child's reading record).

One of the most anticipated changes, as children move to year 5, is the **homework diary or 'planner'**. This is designed to support children to take more responsibility for remembering homework and foster independence. Children copy homework instructions and deadlines into their planners. Children will ask an adult at home to **check and sign planners ready for Monday morning every week**. It is important that the planner is signed weekly so we know that you are aware of the tasks your child needs to complete. It is also useful for home/school communication. There is a space for teachers and parents to write comments each week. We often write positive praise for children to share at home and welcome you to do the same. The planner is also used to communicate more serious sanctions for moving to 'red' in line with our school behaviour policy. Children will also keep a tally of the team points they accrue through the week.

Useful Information

The year 5 class is mainly taught by Mrs Morley (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Fortune (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday). Mrs Marston, a qualified HLTA, supports the class each morning and also leads some lessons on Thursday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon. Mr Wilce will teach PE during the first-afternoon session on Friday. Mrs Johnson will work with Y5 children during the afternoon.

This half-term Y5 PE will take place Monday and Friday. In the second half term, PE will take place on a Tuesday and Friday. On the days when PE falls, children will need to come to school wearing their PE kit. Long hair must be tied back and earrings removed if this is possible. Plasters can be provided for earrings if needed. Children who wear a watch can remove it for the lesson. [Follow the link for the most recent information on PE uniform.](#)

All stationery is provided; this will be kept at school in drawers. Please do not send additional stationery or fiddle toys. After Christmas, we do allow children to switch their school pencil case for their own if they would like. A letter with details about this will be sent out nearer the time.

Later in the term, we will ask children to bring in an old shirt to be used as an art shirt.

Class rewards

We actively seek to identify and reward positive behaviours and hard work. Examples of rewards used in Y5:

- a quiet word of praise,
- comment in workbook/planner,
- team points (children will keep a tally of point in their planner)
- moving to gold on the learning behaviour traffic lights (also recorded by a star sticker in their planner)
- comment or text to parents,
- class merits (whole class reward), leading to an earned communal prize,
- a visit to another member of staff
- a visit to the headteacher and inclusion in the 'Gold Book',

Buddy Program

Each Y5 child will be paired with a reception buddy. The goal is to develop relationships between the younger and older children, enhancing the sense of a friendly and supportive school community. There are benefits for the older buddy in acknowledging their leadership, responsibility and pride in their ability to be helpful. The year 5 cohort is such a warm and friendly bunch; we know that they will make wonderful role models for our new reception class as well as gain new skills themselves from this experience.

Dates -

Friday 6th Sept- first PE lesson

Monday 9th September- first dance lesson with an external coach

Monday 23rd September – Scooter Training

Monday 30th & Wednesday 2nd Sept- Y5 Hygiene and Puberty Talk- more information to follow

Monday 4th November- PE is timetabled for Tuesday during the second half of the autumn.

There will be a parents evening in October; however, if you have any concerns or queries about any aspect of school life please don't hesitate to contact us via the school office or catch us at either end of the school day. We look forward to meeting you all soon.

Kind regards,
Laura Fortune and Hannah Morley
Year 5 class teachers