

Year 5 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. The Year Five teachers' and teaching assistants' would like to thank you for your generosity of gifts and cards.

We hope that this letter gives you and your children a little insight into what to expect during the Spring Term.

English:

This term we'll be using two texts that always excite and engage the children: Dragon Slayer and Beowulf. We will be using these texts as stimuli for stories with dilemmas, newspapers and information texts.

Reading and Comprehension:

Reading will continue to be a key priority in Year 5 throughout the Spring Term where we will further build on the Autumn Term's work on developing reading for pleasure and comprehension skills. It is important that children continue to read at home at least three times a week and record this in their reading diary. Don't forget to encourage your child to read from a range of different genres and add this to their reading challenge in the back of their Literacy homework book. Comprehension lessons will be taught daily to help children develop the skills required to answer a range of question types. In addition to this, we will continue to share a daily class novel with the children which has proved hugely popular so far this academic year.

Spelling:

This term children will continue to have weekly spelling lessons based on a spelling rule. The spelling list each week contain up to ten spellings, which contain this spelling rule. In addition, pupils will be given some (Year 5/6) statutory spellings to learn each week. If your child would like to challenge themselves by accessing the extension, there are additional spelling words for pupils to learn, also following the same spelling rule for that week. To stress, this is not a statutory requirement. Please note that spellings will be tested each Friday.

Maths:

The children will continue to work in their current Maths sets but changes to these sets may be made as the term progresses if your child's maths teacher feels that this is appropriate for their progress. If this affects your child, then you will be contacted by your child's maths teacher. This term, our work will focus on formal methods for multiplication and division, as well as introducing decimal numbers and percentages. Please continue to support your child practising their multiplication and division facts on a regular basis to ensure accuracy and rapid recall.

Science:

This term the children will be building on work from previous years to learn more about materials and their properties and living things and their habitats.

PE:

Up until half term, we will continue to have one PE session on a Wednesday afternoon (this will be swimming for 5B and 5LM) and a second session at another point in the week. We recommend that children keep their full PE kit at school, including black plimsolls and trainers, during term time in case there are timetable changes. After February half term, Year 5 will no longer be swimming and their allocated sports coach session will move to a Tuesday afternoon.

History and DT:

The Anglo Saxons is a key topic in Year 5 this term and we will be trying to link this theme as much as possible across other subject areas. Our DT unit after half term will focus on Anglo-Saxon houses.

Art:

Before half term, we will be studying Art. The children will be studying the work of artist Courtenay Pollock, who is a famous tie dye artist. We will be experimenting with lots of different techniques and we will be producing our own tie dye t-shirts at the end of the unit.

RE:

We will be studying aspects of Christianity, Judaism and Islam this term, focusing on identifying the similarities in their sacred texts and how they can be interpreted in different ways. After half term, we will be focusing on the Easter Story and Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Computing:

In Computing, we will be starting the term learning to collect and analyse data through the use of data loggers. After half term, our learning in Computing will relate to Control and Programming where children will have the opportunity to further develop their coding and debugging skills through the application of Scratch. This unit is always hugely popular and allow the children's inner game designer to come out.

Homework:

Homework is important to your child's progress in school as it supports the learning that has taken place. In addition to reading and spelling the children will be set two pieces of homework, one for Maths and one for Literacy. Homework will usually be set on a Thursday and is due in by the following Tuesday. If your child is struggling to complete tasks, please speak to their class teacher as arrangements can be made for children to access Homework Club on Friday lunchtimes if appropriate. The children have all been given a homework diary in order to record their homework or important notes; it is important that diaries are signed by an adult each week as they will be collected in and checked every Monday.

Music:

Year 5 music takes place on a Wednesday afternoon. Children will be working on composing their own rhythms to accompany poetry, which is linked to the musical "Cats".

Road Safety:

Over the next few weeks, each of the Year 5 classes will work with a member of the Essex Highways Road Safety team. They will receive a presentation in class, before also going out in small, group walks of the local area along with a member of school staff accompanying each group. All of the activities take place during the school day.



Forthcoming trips and events:

- 13.01.26 – Road Safety – 5M and 5B
- 15.01.26 – Road Safety – 5T and 5LM
- 12.01.26 – Additional Parents’ Evening (A separate letter has already been sent out if you are required to attend)
- W/B 26.01.26 Year 5 Test Week
- 10.2.26 & 12.2.26 - Parents’ Evening
- 02.03.26 – Drop ins with Maths set teachers
- 11.03.26 – Year 5 Trip to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village
- 10.03.26 – Year 5 Open Door afternoon, from 2.15pm

We are very much looking forward to another very busy and eventful term. If you have any questions and wish to discuss them with your child’s class teacher please do not hesitate to make an appointment via the School Office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Morris

Year 5 Leader

