

Year 5 Newsletter

13th April 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Summer Term - we hope you have had a relaxing Easter break and that your children are ready to return for what is to be an exciting and busy term.

English:

In Literacy this term, we will be using two main texts (Journey to Jo'Burg and Treasure Island) as our stimuli to develop the children's writing skills in a range of different genres including: narrative from other cultures, recounts, adventure stories, fact files and slam/performance poetry. Throughout the Summer Term we will continue to develop the children as writers by further developing their composition and applying all of the aspects from our GPS sessions. Following on from our Spring Term tests back in February, we will continue this term to teach a slightly extended GPS session on a Friday, as well as the ten-minute daily GPS starters during English lessons. This allows us to ensure the children are secure in their understanding of GPS terminology, but also in answering test style questions in readiness for Year 6.

This term, we will be focusing heavily on the use of punctuation skills and sentence structure as we are spotting in many of the children's pieces of work, basic punctuation marks such as full stops and capital letters are being missed.

Class Comprehension, Reading and Spelling:

Each day we will continue to have a class novel slot where the class share the same text, take turns in reading it and explore it through questioning from the class teacher. This has proved to be hugely popular this year and we look forward to completing our upcoming novels.

We intend to continue with an extended forty-minute comprehension session on a Friday. We have found this allows us to spend longer exploring and understanding the text and provides an opportunity for children to really get their teeth into answering the more complex, longer questions which require a deeper understanding. Children need to continue to complete comprehension questions within a set time (20 minutes per text) to support their application of knowledge within test conditions.

We were pleased to see an increase in the number of children who achieved their Bronze and Silver Reading Awards during the Spring Term – thank you for your support in helping your children achieve this. We would love for even more children to achieve this during the Summer Term and hopefully, for those

who have already achieved an award are able to convert this into the next colour. In order to help your child achieve this, please encourage them to read regularly at home and sign this off in their Reading Diary. Once your child has completed a book, add the title to the correct genre in the back of their Literacy Homework book and sign it off.

Children will continue to have two taught spelling lessons a week with a test (on Friday) and an introduction to the following week's spellings. Children are required to learn both the statutory spellings and the challenge words. If children would like to also learn the 'extension' spelling words to extend their learning, this would be encouraged. When learning weekly spellings, please encourage children to learn the rules so they are able to apply these rules into their writing as we have found that this is far more effective than just learning the words on the list.

Maths:

This term the children will work through areas of the Year 5 National Curriculum that the children are yet to cover including: Area and Perimeter, Properties of Shape, Position and Direction, Negative Numbers, Converting Units and Volume. We will continue to use the White Rose Maths approach where children will develop their conceptual knowledge through small steps using a range of concrete and pictorial representations. Please continue to support your children in their rapid recall of multiplication and division facts.

Homework:

Year 5 will continue to be set two pieces of homework per week, one for Maths and one for English, in addition to reading and spelling. Homework will be set on a Thursday and is due in by the following Tuesday. All homework is linked to class work carried out within the week of it being set. If your child is struggling to complete tasks, please speak to their class teacher as arrangements within school can be made 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 on Mondays.

Science:

Science this term will be focusing on animals including humans and their developmental stages.

Art and DT:

This half term's DT will be focusing on different aspects of French culture, in preparation for our visit to France - children will be preparing and cooking a traditional ratatouille. Further details will go home nearer the time.

After half term, the children will be learning more about French artists with a focus on Degas and sculpture.

Games/PE:

All classes will have one PE session with Winger Sports on a Monday afternoon, as well as one further PE lesson during the week. Lessons will cover: athletics, dynamos cricket and tennis this term. Children need to have their full PE kit at school, including trainers, during term time in case there are timetable changes. This is particularly important this term in readiness for Sports Day.



History:

This term, the children will be starting an exciting new history topic: The ancient Maya civilisation. Year 5 will be learning more about the Maya people and looking at evidence from primary and secondary sources.

Geography:

After half term, we will be learning about earthquakes. We will explore why earthquakes occur and the impact they have upon the land and humans.

Computing:

Children will be able to let their creative juices flow during the Summer Term as they will be Producing and Editing Media by learning to edit music files.

RE:

This term, children will explore the beliefs of Hindus within a theology unit. After half term, children will explore the beliefs within Humanism, conducting an in-depth study into well-known Humanists.

Languages:

The children will continue to learn French this term where they will be further expanding their vocabulary through learning habitats and planets. Children will then apply this newly acquired language to read, write speak and listen in French.

Music:

Year 5 music takes place on a Monday afternoon. This term the children will be studying rhythm with Percussion instruments. Children will explore a range of percussion instruments, playing various rhythms upon them.

Forthcoming trips and events:

- Thursday 7th May: Year 5 Assembly
- Week commencing Monday 18th May: Test Week
- Wednesday 10th June: Year 5 Parents and Children Isle of Wight meeting – and France information evening
- Wednesday 24th June: Year 5 visit to France (further details to follow)
- Monday 29th June: Sports Day
- Wednesday 1st July: Celebration Evening
- Friday 17th July: End of Term

We are very much looking forward to another very busy and eventful term. If you have any concerns and wish to discuss them with your child's class teacher or myself, please do not hesitate to make contact via the year group email account or via the School Office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Morris
Year 5 Leader

