

Year 5 Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2023

Themed Half Term: Exploring the Americas

Year 5

We'd like to thank all the children and their parents for the beautiful cards, well wishes and thoughtful gifts we received for Christmas - we are always overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a very happy and peaceful new year!

Year 5 Staff: Mrs Cooper, Miss Quenby & Mrs Boyes

If you have any queries or concerns you would like to discuss, please contact the office to arrange a telephone call or an appointment with me.



Important Dates

Thursdays

Swimming at Wetherby Leisure Centre.

Friday

Diaries due in: signed with reading & KIRFs recorded. Spelling tests are on Fridays too.

PE is on a Friday. Your child must have their PE kit in school—appropriate for all weathers.

Please ensure your child has indoor pumps and outdoor wellies in school now. They must also have warm clothing each day (coat, hat, gloves). **All of your child's belongings must be clearly labelled.**

RE

In RE this half term, we will learn about the many inspirational people from all walks around the world that lived the way Jesus inspires us to live each day. We will reflect on what it means to be an inspirational person and what qualities and traits these inspirational people had. We will also make links to how the command 'Love our neighbour' informs our behaviour and actions. During this half term, we will be exploring the meaning of being a true disciple and will think about how we can live this out in our daily lives. We will learn about individuals (past and present) who are an inspiration to us. Throughout the half term, we will reflect on how we can serve others at home, school, locally and globally with our continued focus of "Living Simply" at the forefront.

English

Our class novel this half term is "The Explorer" by Katherine Rundell which is set in the Amazon Rainforest. As you can see, this has been the inspiration for our class topic! All of our English lessons, both reading and writing, will be based on our class novel. We will develop our narrative writing including diary entries and description and will continue to develop our use of figurative language. We will also further develop using evidence in our answers to justify our inferences. We will continue to develop our spelling, punctuation and grammar skills (SPAG) and will learn about subordinating conjunctions (in subordinate clauses) and relative pronouns (in relative clauses). We will continue to revise areas that we need to develop in—such as the use of the comma for fronted adverbials. **To help at home, please listen to your child read and read to your child frequently. They should have a school reading book and a reading for pleasure book.**

Mathematics

In Maths this half term, we will continue to develop confidence in the four operations, including multiplication and division. Using skills of the four operations, we will move on to measuring and calculating the perimeter and area of rectilinear and composite shapes. The children will continue to develop their fluency and speed in times tables and key instant recall facts (KIRFs). Throughout the half term, we will keep all skills bubbling, as well as linking back to Y4 skills. We will revise symmetry and the properties of 2D shapes before we move on to learning about angles next half term. **To help your child at home, please continue to work on quick mental addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as being able to quickly recall multiples and factors of a given number. If you require any resources to support with this, please ask!**

Science

This half term we will continue with our topic of Materials where we will explore solutions and how to recover substances from a solution. We will create our own solutions using water and salt and will explore the terms 'dissolving' and 'disappearing'. We will then consider how we can recover the salt from the solution and will **observe** this over a number of days. We will compare and group everyday materials on the basis of their properties and will apply our Maths skills to do so using Venn diagrams and classification keys. The children will then explore reversible changes some more and will describe how to recover a substance from a solution, e.g. salt water. Finally, we will explore irreversible changes in Science and consider why these changes are irreversible, such as toasting bread, frying an egg and a more exciting investigation involving bicarb of soda, vinegar and a balloon!

Computing

This half term in Computing, we will focus on coding. We will think about the need for coding within computing equipment such as iPads and computers and when else we use coding in our day to day lives. We will do this physically first, giving each other instructions on how to get to a certain location or draw a certain picture so that we understand the need to be extremely clear with our instructions (code). This will lead us on to thinking about efficient coding. We will set IF conditions for movements and use our mathematical knowledge of degrees of rotation and we will use variables and functions to make efficient code. Finally, we will move on to using IF THEN ELSE conditions to control objects more precisely. We will be using a range of apps and programs to do this, examples including Swift Playgrounds and A.L.E.X. (A.L.E.X. can be downloaded at home). Keep checking our web page to see what we get up to in Computing. **Online safety is explicitly taught and embedded in all lessons.**

Topic: Exploring the Americas

This half term, our topic begins with a focus of 'Explorers' linked to our class novel and linked to exploring the Americas (North and South America). We have a full term of exploring—this half term will have a focus on Geography. We will begin with naming and locating the countries of both continents whilst embedding our map skills through a fun orienteering activity. We will also explore the human and physical features and will develop a deep understanding of two particular locations in North and South America: the United States of America and Brazil. We will also develop their 'sticky knowledge' of knowing the world's continents and oceans. As part of our Live Simply ethos, we will look at one of the most wonderful physical features in the world: The Amazon Rainforest (which is the setting of our class novel). We will make links to previous learning in Year 3 and will learn more about the structure of the rainforest, the purpose of each layer and the importance of rainforests in our world. We will learn about the different types of climate and will study the flora and fauna (plants and animals) that live in different locations because of differing climates.

Art & Design

Last term, Year 5 really enjoyed learning about the Ancient Greeks and next half term they will study the Maya Civilisation. The children already know that pottery was important in ancient time periods and that they are used by archaeologists to infer information about the past. Therefore, this is going to be our inspiration and stimulus. Year 5 will learn even more about the significance and importance of pottery for the Greeks and Mayans and will be able to plan their own vase/pot that they will make where they will draw inspiration from the Greeks and Mayans. Before creating their historical inspired vases/pots, Year 5 will have the opportunity to develop and practise skills for using clay. They will then create their vase/pot inspired by Greek/Mayan pottery and will decorate it. They'll spend time evaluating their creations and considering how they would improve them further and considering also how they are similar to the Greek/Mayan pottery they took inspiration from.

PE

Year 5 will continue to develop their skills and ability in swimming, including their understanding and awareness of water safety. They will continue to develop their breathing using a range of strokes. In PE lessons, Year 5 will continue to develop their sportsmanship skills—encouraging and supporting their peers in lessons, including their coaching skills. In PE lessons in school, Year 5 will develop their skills in dance and gymnastics. We also have a Leeds Rhinos Foundation Coach coming in to deliver 3 taster rugby sessions for Year 5 this half term!

MFL

In MFL, we will continue to develop our listening skills through listening to spoken language in French and show understanding by joining in and responding. We will begin with a vocabulary focus so that we can learn the vocabulary needed. We will then work on translating sentences from French to English and write our own sentences in French before using all of our learning to translate a passage from French to English. It's going to be a half term filled with physically active and fun learning, especially seeing as the best way to learn is by having fun!

Music

Our learning in Music this half term will continue to be using the Dhol drums. Year 5 will continue to develop their rhythm, keeping in time with others and performing as a solo and in an ensemble, whilst developing their historical understanding of this type of music. So far, the children have learnt about a range of rhythms including the hip hop rhythm and other rhythms. The children really enjoyed their drumming sessions and feel they are getting better and better with each lesson. Please continue to check the class webpage for videos and pictures of the children in action!

PSHE

This half term, we are focusing on stereotypes and discrimination. We will continue to Philosophy for Children in our PSHE lessons which not only supports the children's speaking and listening skills but also their ability to agree or debate others' opinions and views. We will also revisit two of our British Values: Individual Liberty and the Rule of Law. As always, PSHE lessons are reactive and responsive to the children's needs and we will continue our emotional literacy check ins at the beginning of the day and after lunch time—this is well embedded in Year 5 and reinforces the ethos of a safe and welcoming classroom where all voices are heard!

Homework

In response to parent feedback, some homework will be paper based rather than online:

- Mathematics/Spelling Shed/Reading Eggs tasks are set weekly. Children should complete the tasks set.
- **Reading 5 times per week** for 15-20 minutes minimum but longer is preferable to build reading stamina.
- **Reading challenges**—children should complete these challenges in their reading jotters and this should be linked to the book they are currently reading. These are optional but children are rewarded when they complete reading challenges.
- Research projects and other occasional homework tasks linked to our Topics this half term



Please visit the Homework section at the bottom of the Year 5 web page on our school website to find optional tasks to support your child's learning this half term.

Our homework policy is available on the school website.

Ways to Help Your Child

Parent/guardian support at home is invaluable in your child's learning and at our school we are so thankful and grateful for the excellent support you provide. Please continue to support your child at home, particularly with their reading, spellings and KIRFs. For this half term, your child must read their school **reading book 4x a week for at least 15 minutes** at a time. Please ensure that your child is reading aloud as well as independently as this helps their understanding and comprehension of what they are reading. It is also beneficial for your child to hear an adult reading aloud to them. This is proven to support children with reading fluency and enjoyment for reading too. We ask that your child has their homework diary and reading book in school with them every day.

In Year 5, we encourage our pupils to develop their independence so we ask that your child completes their homework diary independently each week, this includes recording their reading, KIRFs and homework, before being signed by a parent/guardian at the end of the week.