

Helping your child in Year 5

Autumn Term 2026

Together we care, together we achieve



We'd like to welcome all our Year 5 children back to school and say how much we're looking forward to teaching and getting to know all of you! We have been so impressed by how well you have all settled back into school routines and can't wait to see what progress you make this year; we know it's going to be a good one.

History

Over the next two terms, we will be learning about Ancient Civilisations. In Term 1, we will look at what makes an Ancient Civilisation and will learn more about Sumer, Chinese civilisations (including the Shang Dynasty) and the Indus Valley. In the run up to Christmas, our learning will focus in on Ancient Egypt.

Writing

We will start the term by recapping basic grammar skills. Throughout the term, we will teach new grammar features and rules at the start of each lesson. During Term 1, we will focus on an intriguing historical text called 'Children of the Benin Kingdom'. In Term 2, we will read the first Harry Potter book, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. As always, we will have a high standard for handwriting and encourage children to practise their joined-up writing whenever possible.

Reading

Even though your child is now in Year 5, it is still vitally important to enjoy books together as much as you possibly can. To help your child improve their comprehension skills, you could ask them questions about the text they are reading and share your ideas too. The children are still responsible for changing their own books as needed.

Teachers and support staff will hear readers during independent reading time, after lunch, and whole class reading sessions will be delivered weekly.

Maths

We will start the term by concentrating on number and place value work, and giving the children different strategies for calculations using all four operations (+, -, $\div$, $\times$). We'll finish Autumn term having a brief look at area and perimeter. If you have any questions about the methods we use, please feel free to speak to the class teacher and they will happily explain to you.

Quick recall of number facts continues to be essential in Year 5 and times tables will continue to be a focus throughout the year. You can help your children by playing informal games, asking them quick-fire questions and encouraging their use of Times Table Rockstars and Doodle Maths or Doodle Tables.

Homework

In order to promote regular reading, we ask every child to read for at least twenty minutes a day at home. This could be independent reading, reading with a sibling or adult or shared reading (you read a bit, they read a bit). Please ensure that the new reading records are signed every time they read. For every five entries (per week) in the reading record, children will earn a raffle ticket which gives them the chance to win a book at the end of each term.

In addition to this, we ask that children spend ten minutes daily on any one of the following, aiming to access each across the course of the week: TT Rockstars, Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables.

Spellings will no longer be tested weekly. The time will instead be used to teach spellings more regularly in class.

P.E.

P.E. lessons will be taught on a Tuesday afternoon for all classes. Children can come to school in their PE kit on this day (no football kits please). There is no need to bring their uniforms on PE days. Children will need a plain white T-shirt, plain blue shorts/grey bottoms (leggings, tracksuits, etc.) and running shoes or plimsolls. All hair longer than the chin will need to be tied back and earrings removed or covered (we can provide earring tape if needed). All items of clothing and personal possessions need to be named.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Best wishes,

The Year 5 Team

Class Teachers: Miss Whittaker, Mrs Ireland and Mr Davies

Support Staff: Mrs Watts