



Year 5 – Autumn Term 1

What will the children be learning?

Every half term in Year 5 is a rollercoaster of adventure covering a diverse range of subjects and topics. Some of our work this half term will come under the umbrella theme of self-worth and belonging, which we'll explore in RE, PSHE and our new Stormbreak activities – physical exercise breaks with a focus on sustaining and improving mental health. This theme will also lead into our half-termly debate topic: "We should be free to live, work and expect equal rights in any country we choose". Extending from that, our Geography topic on the Alps will allow us to explore what it would be like to live in a different climate.

Meanwhile in Science, we'll explore solid and liquid mixtures and methods used to separate them, asking questions such as: if you dissolve salt in water, can you get it back again? In Computing, we'll evaluate the use of the internet as a source of information and think about what is and isn't reliable. In French, we'll investigate noun gender, article-noun agreement, and adjective placement while exploring monster and body part vocabulary so we can describe some fantastic French beasts!

Our more practical subjects are also no less varied. In Art, we'll learn about 'installation' art and how it can communicate messages through scale, location and interactivity. Meanwhile in Design and Technology, we'll test and analyse various types of bridge to determine their strength and stability before using our research to make our own. Finally, our Music lessons will take on a practical approach as Mr Johnson tackles the task of teaching everyone to play the ukulele.

English

Our English work this term will see us writing both fiction and non-fiction. We'll start with a short narrative piece themed around the nerves and excitement of being left alone in an amusement park, before tying in with our Geography work to look at a variety of prominent European cities and whether they would make worthwhile holiday destinations. The children will then adopt a city and research it before championing it to the rest of the class in some persuasive writing.

We'll also be reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q Rauf to support the theme of belonging, which will also provide a perspective for our debate.

Maths

In Maths this term, we will consolidate learning from Year 3 and 4 while expanding core concepts surrounding Number and Place Value. Year 5 means using bigger numbers up into the millions, and smaller numbers down to thousandths. We'll also be rounding, looking at using Roman numerals to signify years and use all these skills to complete a curious quest to run the Ranvilles Museum.

We'll then move on to learning formal methods for addition and subtraction to Year 5 standard, use this to solve multi-step problems and include some work on perimeter.

How to help at home

Our homework routine runs from Monday to Monday as usual. New homework booklets will go home in the first week of the term. The regular homework tasks are as follows:

Reading: Regular independent reading (four times a week for a house point, five times for two). It would be especially great if you could listen to our child read to you, or a sibling, and ask questions about the text to check their understanding. We have Reading Masters booklets that will help with this – just ask if you've mislaid the one given in Year 3.

Spelling: Regular practice either using the sheet in the homework booklet or Spelling Shed. Two house points for five or more sessions a week.

Maths: Weekly maths challenge in the maths homework booklet and regular practise on TT Rockstars to develop or secure tables knowledge. Two house points for engaging in both tasks.

Please photograph the homework booklets to show engagement and upload to Google classroom. The websites and passwords needed for all of this are in your Dojo message thread, sent in September. Please also don't forget our Sora eLibrary, which contains thousands of age-appropriate books. Information for accessing this is in the same password document in your Dojo message thread.

Other information

PE: Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday. While the weather holds, both of these will take place outdoors. On Mondays we'll be exploring the concept of fitness and how to stay fit, while on Wednesdays we'll be learning how to play Netball. It helps us hugely if on PE days ear rings aren't worn so we don't have to worry about taking them out, and long hair is tied back. These are both statutory safety requirements for school PE lessons.

Library: The school library is open every morning break time for children to change books as and when they need to. Children still learning to read also have access to our separate book band library and our allotted time there is on Wednesday mornings. Children on book bands are encouraged to change books weekly, keeping one in school for afternoon reading and one at home for home use.