



Year 5 Spring Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring Term in Year 5. We are proud of the way that the children have been working hard so far in Year 5; they are growing in maturity. We are currently focusing on our core value of Courage and discussing ways that we can speak up for others. The Easter Service will be performed by Year 5 this term which we are really looking forward to.

As normal, homework for the children will be set every Monday and is due the following Sunday by 8pm. The children are encouraged where possible to complete their homework by Friday so that they can enjoy their weekends. Homework expectations are as follows:

- At least 20 minutes of reading per day
 - 3x Mathematics tasks
 - 1x Spelling Shed task

It is really important that the children know their multiplication tables. Thank you for the support at home in helping them to practise.



During Writing lessons we are currently building up to writing a first person narrative based on the short film 'The Piano' by Aidian Gibbons. The writing will focus on the old man's memories and feelings. We will consider the use of language for impact. We will then move on to a short non-fiction writing unit. Our next novel focus for writing, after half term, will be 'The Lion Above the Door' by Onjali Q. Rauf.

We will continue to develop our deeper comprehension and inference skills in Reading lessons. A range of extracts will be chosen to link with the subject matter in writing lessons.

Oracy is always a focus for us, with the children being encouraged to think about the way they speak and listen to others within a range of settings.



Having shown amazing growth in our multiplication and division topic, we'll be returning to Fractions, continuing to learn why they're not as scary as $\frac{1}{2}$ of them think. After that, we'll take a journey through Decimals and Percentages aiming to become 100% confident at them. A quick stroll around Perimeter and Area will lead us to a unit on statistics, of which I once heard 82% are made up. Line graphs, two way tables and time tables will all be part of the schedule.



We have started our new topic, 'Properties and Changes of Materials'. Our lessons will involve discussing, researching and investigating, all the while making sure we're 'working scientifically'. Our first investigation involved effectively separating mixed materials by using our knowledge of their properties. Following this, our next unit will be 'Forces'.

This term will begin with the topic 'God'. We will explore different beliefs regarding the nature of God. Comparisons will be made between the main world religions/worldviews. This is followed by the topic 'Gospel', with a focus on considering what Jesus would do, and how this affects the way Christians live their lives.



This term, we are beginning our study of the Ancient Maya. Our work in lessons will look to answer the question: 'What was similar and what was different about people making history around the year 1000?'. The aim for this unit is for the children to study a non-European society that contrasts with British history. We will achieve this through a comparative study of the achievements, housing and religious beliefs of the Ancient Maya and the Vikings. So far, year 5 have designed their own Ancient Maya masks and learnt about the Ancient Maya origin!



Year 5 will learn about **mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes**. The children will consider the importance of plate tectonics in exploring their location and features. They will find out about settlements in mountainous regions and the impact of earthquakes and volcanoes on people's lives. They will find out about the significance of Mount Everest.



This term Y5 will continue to refine their ensemble performance and listening skills (focusing on accuracy and timing). Sessions will also introduce the children to improvisation and composition. The children will begin to develop a greater understanding of and ability to read musical notation leading to further opportunities for improvisation and composition using our YUMU musical school platform.



Our next unit is painting and mixed media portraits. This unit offers pupils opportunities to develop skills in creating interesting portrait drawings using words, experimenting with materials and techniques, and constructing self-portraits that represent aspects of themselves.



The 5D and 5B Computer games studios are up and running. Children spent last term planning their own maze game to be made on Scratch. Sprites and Backgrounds have been made and now the fun, but tricky, task of coding lies ahead. Children will then have the chance to Beta Test each other's games, and make adaptations based on feedback they receive. How A-maze-ing...



Our new topic for this half term is dance, alongside fitness circuits for 5B and swimming for 5D. In dance the unit of work will challenge pupils to experience dances from different cultural traditions.

Pupils will develop group movements selecting and applying choreography into a performance. We will then move on to tennis. The unit of work will challenge pupils to apply their prior learning of playing the ball into space. Pupils will begin to develop their ability to serve and to volley. Pupils will be able to create tactics in a doubles game in order to score points and win the game.

French

This term's focus in French will be the calendar, seasons and weather and revision of the numbers 1-30. The children will also be introduced to the phonics "qu" and "ç". We will then investigate the famous cerfs volant festival (Kite festival).



In Design and Technology we will begin our new unit all about food and nutrition. We will be learning about seasonal foods and how they are better for the environment. We will consider what nutrition is and how we can make healthier food choices when cooking. We will then develop some skills such as cutting, grating and peeling. Finally we will put all our new skills to the test by designing and making a healthier pizza with seasonal ingredients.



We will complete two further puzzle pieces from our Jigsaw Curriculum this Spring term. The first being 'Dreams and Goals'. In this Puzzle, the children share their dreams and goals and how they might need money to help them achieve them. They consider jobs that people they know do, they look at the fact that some jobs pay more money than others and reflect on what types of jobs they might like to do when they are older. The children look at the similarities and differences between themselves (and their dreams and goals) and someone from a different culture.

Another piece that we will look at is 'Healthy Me'. In this Puzzle, the children investigate the risks associated with smoking and how it affects the lungs, liver and heart. Likewise, they learn about the risks associated with alcohol misuse. They are taught a range of basic first aid and emergency procedures (including the recovery position) and learn how to contact the emergency services when needed. The children investigate how body types are portrayed in the media, social media and celebrity culture. They also learn about eating disorders and people's relationships with food and how this can be linked to negative body image pressures.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 5 team.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Brookes, Mrs Donaghy and Miss Richardson