



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
- Lexia (only applicable if your child is currently working through the programme)

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

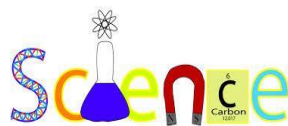


During Writing lessons we will be completing our work on Anthony Browne's *King Kong*, using the story as a basis for writing a newspaper report and a persuasive advert. We will also continue to develop our comprehension and inference skills in Reading lessons. Oracy is a focus for us, with the children being encouraged to think about the way they speak and listen to others within a range of settings.

Next, we will read *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein and write a biography on the author's life. During Reading lessons, we will explore a range of non-fiction texts then begin a new novel, *The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen.



In maths this term, we've finished off our unit on Fractions, before taking a meander through the world of Multiplication and Division. We'll be returning to Fractions with this multiplication knowledge to multiply fractions. After this, we'll be enjoying some time with Decimals and Percentages, before reuniting with our old friends Perimeter and Area. Be there, or be square-d.



We're focusing on Biology this term in Y5. Our topic in science this term is Animals including Humans, focusing on the human life cycle. This includes looking at the growth of babies, puberty and life expectancy. We'll also start to look at Living Things and Their Habitats, including pollination and germination. Much to look forward to.

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 aim 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.



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 receive their music curriculum through learning the violin. The sessions will be delivered by Mrs. Peters from the Durham Music Service. The sessions will introduce the children to the instrument alongside developing their ensemble performance skills (focusing on accuracy of tuning and timing). The children will begin to develop a greater understanding of and ability to read musical notation leading to more opportunities for improvisation and composition.



This term in art, our final piece will be a sculpture. We will be inspired by Wassily Kandinski and Claes Oldenburg. The children will make a 3D slice of cake out of card and then will papier mâché over the card. To complete the piece of art, the children will paint their design using painting skills learned last term.



The 5B and 5D game studios are open on Friday afternoons this year as children, having designed their own maze game before Christmas, are making, analysing and improving their creations. We'll be building on their existing Scratch skills to do this. I'm sure they'll be amazing.



Gymnastics - the children have got off to a fabulous start in their gymnastics lessons where they have been learning about counter balances and counter tension. They will be working in partners to create a routine to perform.

Net and wall games - the children be developing their skills in tennis before applying these to a games scenario.

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).



This term in Design and Technology, we are working on mechanisms. We will be designing, making and evaluating a cam mechanism toy. We will look at how cams have been used throughout history and for a wide range of uses before exploring further how they are used as toys. We will be learning how to saw wood safely and honing our measuring skills. We will be creating a toy museum for Y3 to visit where our cam toys will be on display for them to test and to teach them about a range of historic events.



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 Hirst