



Welcome to Year 5

Dear Parents/Carers and children,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and have had a well-deserved rest. I am really looking forward to the work we will be covering, which is primarily geography based. Our first topic of the year is 'From the river to the Sea' which is primarily geography based. This theme will be taught through various subject areas including: English, Reading Art/DT, History, Geography and Science. In connection with our topic, the children will be finding out about the lives of 2 key people: Jane Goodall and Sir David Attenborough. We will hopefully have the opportunity to carry out some field work at a nearby river.

English

During English, Y5 will be learning to write for a variety of purposes. These will primarily be based round and inspired by our 'Rivers' topic. Linking our writing to our topics helps to embed the vocabulary related to the subject and enhance the children's understanding. The writing we will be doing will include: Information texts about animals and habitats, a biography about a famous naturalist and explanation texts based around how to protect our oceans, rivers and seas. All writing will follow a clear writing process, which will take children from learning about the features of a text type to drafting, revising, editing and then publishing. You will be invited in to class at the end of term so your children can read out loud the writing they have created. It is important that they know their writing will be seen and heard by others and that they are writing with an audience in mind. The children will also have daily handwriting practice.

In Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, which will be taught daily, there will be a focus on different types of sentence construction and we will extend their learning about parenthesis, expanded noun phrases, tenses and modal verbs. There will also be regular dictation practice. In order to embed



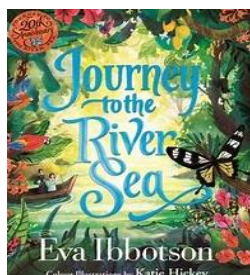


the knowledge of some of the different word types, there will be an early morning sentence challenge during registration time. Please ensure your child is in promptly at 8.30, so they do not miss this crucial learning.

Reading

We have a weekly reading text, which we read on a daily basis. Our chosen texts are closely linked to our topic about rivers and forces which we will cover. We look at the type of genre it is and share our previous knowledge. We practice reading for meaning, focussing on following punctuation clues and practice reading aloud to develop the children's intonation and confidence. We look at and discuss any unknown words or phrases the children will practice skills such as retrieval, inferencing, summarising and explaining. Most reading sessions will include choral and echo reading as modelled by the class teacher. As it has proved so popular, we will be continuing our Friday 'Reading for Pleasure' session with juice and bickies. This session will also be extended, so that the children have an opportunity to talk about and share their opinions on the books they have been reading and to look at new releases or recommended books for our year group. They are encouraged to bring in books from home if they wish. The children will have a daily session where they read their own books independently, which are selected at an appropriate level for them.

Books



We have a daily class book reading session, where I read out loud to the children. We will be reading the historical novel...

Journey to the River Sea, By Eva Ibbotson

The story takes place in the Amazon Basin in the early 1900s and follows [Maia](#), an orphan from England who is invited to live with [the Carters](#), distant relatives who own a rubber farm in Brazil.



Maths

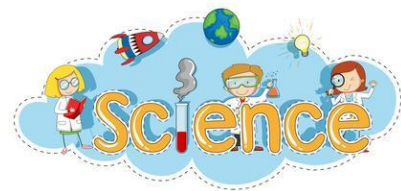
Up until Easter we will be covering three mathematical areas: Fractions is continued and we will be moving onto decimals and percentages, perimeter and area and statistics. Children will be exposed to a range of questions in different styles within these topics including more complex reasoning and multistep problem solving.

We will continue to work on times tables through regular practice of 'Rolling Number' rhymes as well as oral testing in pairs. Alongside this, there will be frequent, oral practice of number bonds, boosting children's confidence and ability to recall numbers facts with speed and accuracy.



Science

Science will be taught regularly, once a week. We will be learning about 'Forces' - Gravity, magnetism, friction. We will also learn about water and air resistance and investigate mechanisms, such as levers, pulleys and gears. We will be conducting a range of investigations to test out our ideas. When we carry out experiments, children will learn to write them up using key scientific vocabulary learnt throughout the unit. Children will be asked to consider variables and control groups when conducting activities and plan their own experiment. Our Scientist under investigation will be Sir Isaac Newton. We will also be learning about animals and their habitats and look into how to keep our hearts healthy.



PE



PE this term will be on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure your child has named school PE kit and plimsolls as well as a black tracksuit, or leggings as it gets colder. Until Easter, Coach Tom will be taking 2 sessions of PE with the children per week, focussing on dance and gymnastics and their related skills.

RE

In term 3 and 4 , the children will be thinking about Jesus and consider what was prophesised in the bible. We will be using the bible to explore the key question ‘Was Jesus the Messiah?’ We will be looking for evidence in the scriptures as well as looking at how architecture and art can reflect Jesus. The children will consider whether Jesus might be a good role model and how this might be useful or relevant to living today. Children will be encouraged to make links between the different religions of the world and to ask questions.



Spanish



- Hola! This term the children will be recapping and extending their Spanish. The children will be learning about healthy eating and going to market. They will be using fruit and veg nouns and market dialogue. In addition, they will be reading and writing a recipe

Later on, the children will be talking about clothes, learning nouns, using the verb to wear, describing using adjectives, reading descriptions, designing and writing in Spanish.

Music

Music this year will continue to be based on our Charanga Programme and I am excited to announce that the music styles we will be listening to are pop ballads, with specific focus on ‘Make You feel My Love, recorded by both Adele and Bob Dylan. In addition, we will be listening to and evaluating child-friendly rap, such as the Fresh Prince of Bel Air. The children will listen to, learn to identify and give their own opinions about this music genre. We





continue to explore structure, rhythms and tempos. Alongside singing, the children will have a chance to play musical accompaniments on the glockenspiels and recorders. Furthermore, they will have a go at improvising and creating their own simple melodies using the notes they have learned. In conjunction to learning the glockenspiel, they will continue to learn more formal musical notation.

Computing.

Our focus this term will be on creating media where the children will be exposed to topic-based language and develop the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video. Active learning is encouraged through guided questions and by working in small groups to investigate the use of devices and software. Learners are guided with step-by-step support to take their idea from conception to completion.

Art/Dt

In term 3 and 4, we will be looking at the work of Modernist David Hockney. The children will explore different ways to represent water using a variety of media: pastels, water colour, pen and ink, fabric etc. We will also look at 'The great Wave' by Veronique Massenet. In Dt we will create diorama using layers to create depth. Look at layered decoupage as inspiration and for practice. The children will also be challenged to make working water wheels and sea wall defences.



Home Learning

Home Learning will involve daily reading (recommended a minimum of 15 minutes) and the learning of weekly spellings. Any reading that is done should be logged on the 'Track My Read' app. In year 5, weekly spelling tests will be on a Friday and the spellings for next week will be put on Dojo. From this term, there will also be an expectation that the children complete a weekly reading comprehension and maths activity. This will be given out on the Friday and due back in by the following Wednesday at the latest.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything at all, please message me on Dojo.

Mrs Douglass