

# Curriculum



Dear Parents/Carers,

It doesn't seem like five minutes since writing the last newsletter and welcoming you all into Year 5, yet here we are almost half way through the year. So far this year the children have been exceptional, embracing their work and producing some wonderful pieces across the curriculum.

Continuing to work in Year 5 is typically Mrs Hughes, Miss Wilson, Mrs Copley and Mrs Whittaker. We endeavour to minimise the changes in staffing as we know how important consistency is for all the children. In Year Five we also have Mr Newton delivering Music and DFC Coaching delivering PE on a Tuesday morning.

The main topic this half term is based on our Science topic of Earth, Sun and Moon, with the enquiry question 'Is there life on Mars?' being the focus for topic work. This will be followed by a Local Study about Yarm with 'The History of Yarm; Fact or Fiction?' as the question. This will encompass a contrasting location, which we will study as part of our residential trip to Carlton during the Summer Term.

Building on the fabulous work completed before Christmas, we will continue to deliver our English curriculum by teaching narrative every morning, linking as much as we can to our topic, including 'George's Secret Key to the Universe' by Lucy and Stephen Hawking. During the afternoons the children will be immersed in non-fiction writing making close links with the current topics, producing Non-Chronological Reports, Instructions and Explanations. The SPAG agenda is incorporated in what we are teaching, ensuring that the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar of the children continues to improve.

In Maths, we continue to follow the objectives set out in the National Curriculum with an increased focussed on problem solving and reasoning which will encourage systematic thinking and following a line of enquiry. Schofield and Sims will follow the same pattern as before as it has proved to be very successful in improving mental maths strategies. We are aware many parents like to support their children with this initiative, but we ask politely that you do not purchase books for the children to practice at home. Children attend a weekly marking session where it is vitally important that they can explain and discuss strategies along with their mathematical reasoning. However, any support you can give your child with securing their knowledge of times tables would benefit them greatly in school.

Children will also be covering other areas of the curriculum in discreet lessons. Our Computing will focus heavily on web development and then programming. This half term we will be looking at the Sikh religion and Places of Worship and some of the themes within the Easter story.

Our second Science topic is 'All about Humans' in which we will look at the changes in humans during life. This will include our Sex and Relationships work around changes. Our

Art work will look at famous architect Anthony Gormley, as well as the artist Peter Thorpe.

We will continue to send weekly homework on a Friday and they will be due back the following Thursday. Other homework will be sent home as we see fit during the term. It is important that this is completed as it supports work completed in the class. Children who do not return their homework repeatedly, will miss their Golden Time and complete their homework then, a system the children are familiar with.

We will be continuing with our Guided Reading Programme within school, where children work using specific texts on a range of skills such as inference, deduction, summarising and predicting. As well as this, we have recently introduced DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time into school. This is dedicated reading time, encouraging the children to read for pleasure. This links closely to our reading initiative where the children will receive 'points' for reading a range of books - their target is to work through the galaxy in order to reach the magic 100 points. We hope this will enthuse some more reluctant readers to engage further with their reading, also supporting their ideas for writing further. The children will continue to visit the library once a week in order to choose a book for pleasure and bring home with them. We will continue to expect that children read at home at least three times a week, and that their reading records be returned to school every Friday having been signed by an adult. In order to support your child reading at home regularly and to support the work that we do in school, we find that discussing books read and what the children have enjoyed, found out etc. will help improve their comprehension skills.

This term we will also be introducing mindfulness into our daily practice, as part of research study by the Anna Freud foundation. The purpose of mindfulness is to encourage self-awareness of body sensations, emotions and thoughts. It also helps us to notice and experience what is happening rather than resisting, avoiding or telling ourselves stories about what we think is happening. Mindfulness also helps to reduce levels of stress whilst increase self-awareness and concentration. We hope that by taking part in this study, it will support pupils to be able to focus their minds more, regulate their emotions, develop feelings of empathy and compassion and to deal with frustrations. We will begin with teaching breathing techniques before moving into mindfulness based activities. We hope that the children engage positively with this process, and may wish to practice these techniques at home.

There are a number of websites that we recommend to support your child's learning at home. These include:

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)

[www.educationcity.com](http://www.educationcity.com)

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/>

We have PE every Tuesday, therefore please ensure that your child has an appropriate **NAMED** PE Kit in school every week. We will, weather permitting be outside some of the time, therefore a jumper, tracksuit bottoms and a change of shoes would be useful.

If there is anything you would like to know more information about then please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your support in advance.

We look forward to an exciting and busy term of learning.

Year 5 Team

## Year 5 and 6 Spelling List

accommodate	develop	parliament
accompany	dictionary	persuade
according	disastrous	physical
achieve	embarrass	prejudice
aggressive	environment	privilege
amateur	equipment	profession
ancient	especially	programme
apparent	exaggerate	pronunciation
appreciate	excellent	queue
attached	existence	recognise
available	explanation	recommend
average	familiar	relevant
awkward	foreign	restaurant
bargain	forty	rhyme
bruise	frequently	rhythm
category	government	sacrifice
cemetery	guarantee	secretary
committee	harass	shoulder
communicate	hindrance	signature
community	identity	sincere(ly)
competition	immediate(ly)	soldier
conscience*	individual	stomach
conscious*	interfere	sufficient
controversy	interrupt	suggest
convenience	language	symbol
correspond	leisure	system
criticise (critic + ise)	lightning	temperature
curiosity	marvellous	thorough
definite	mischievous	twelfth
desperate	muscle	variety
determined	necessary	vegetable
	neighbour	vehicle
	nuisance	yacht
	occupy	
	occur	
	opportunity	