



Welcome to the Year 5 class newsletter—full of key information for the term ahead.  
This term, our context for learning is:

*Were the Ancient Maya marvellous or macabre?*

*The Year 5 Team: Class teachers - Mr Rowland + Ms Keen*

*TA - Ms Imran*

### English

We are starting the year with a lovely story about the value of words, 'Phileas's Fortune'. Exploring the text through art, poetry and diary writing, we will be able to bring this enchanting world to life. Later in the term, we will read and write persuasive adverts and explanation texts linked to 'The King of Space'.

We will be starting our adventure into 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase' as our whole class reading text before half term and then we will step into 'Tom's Midnight Garden' in the second half of the Spring term. By analysing each chapter and specific vocabulary, we are developing key reading and comprehension skills. Regular practice of grammar, punctuation and spelling will continue.

### Maths

In Maths, we will be continuing to develop written methods for multiplication and division, working towards the formal methods many of you will be familiar with. The children will also learn and practise strategies to apply these calculation methods to solving problems. We will focus on fractions, learning to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. We will then work on decimals and percentages before continuing our learning within measurement and finding the area of rectilinear shapes. Please continue to support your child in learning and practising all their times tables, up to 12x12 and telling the time.

### History

In History this term, Year 5 will study the Ancient Maya Civilisation. The children will compare the lives of these Central American people with the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, who were the focus of last term's history learning. We will discover where the Maya Empire was located and explore different aspects of how the Maya lived. To deepen our understanding, the children will be treated to an interactive workshop, in which the children will find out about the hierarchy of Maya society.

### Science

Our learning this term is 'Properties and Changes of Materials'. We will build on the children's existing knowledge of solids, liquids and gases by exploring reversible changes (such as melting and evaporating) and irreversible changes (such as burning). There are plenty of opportunities for fun and exciting investigations with this topic; why not try cooking eggs in different ways with your child at home!



### Music

The children will continue to receive weekly guitar tuition. They will consolidate and build on their knowledge of musical notes and develop their improvisation skills. This is in addition to our weekly whole school singing assemblies and practice.

### PE

This term the children will be learning gymnastics then dance during indoor PE, to develop their understanding of movement, shape and form. For outdoor PE, led by the coach, the children will learn how to play tag rugby followed by basketball and the skills of accurate passing, movement and position.

### Art

Along with the whole school, Year 5 will be developing their 3D art skills this term. We will learn about Maya hieroglyphs in History and the children will develop designs and symbols of their own to make.

### Computing

In our computing lessons, the children will have the opportunity to learn how to create short videos. They will develop the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video.

In our internet safety lessons, we will be learning about Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle. The children will explore the positive and negative effects of technology and the internet, and why it is important to limit the time we spend using devices.

### French

Children in Year 5 will be learning vocabulary and conversations linked with eating out and buying food. They will learn how to order food and drinks in Cafés and restaurants, as well as how to ask for a table.

### RE

The children will be learning about Christianity and the life of Jesus. If this is your faith, please let us know if you would be willing to come in and share your practice with the children.

### PSHE

In PSHE this term, the children will be learning about the difference between legal and illegal drugs. After half term, we will be exploring mental health and emotional wellbeing.

### Reminders

**Jewellery:** The only jewellery we allow are watches and stud earrings. If possible your child should not wear earrings on PE days.

**Uniform:** Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name and encourage them to look after their belongings. If you are unsure about school uniform, please look on the school website.

**We endeavour to be a nut free school. Please be aware of this when you prepare your child's lunch box. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, pesto, hummus and products with sesame seeds.**

**Birthdays:** If you would like to make a gift of a book for the class to celebrate your child's birthday, that would be much appreciated.

**Water bottles:** Please ensure your child brings in a named water bottle, filled with water, each day.

**PE :** Indoor PE on **Mondays** for both **5DR** and **5RK** in **Spring 1**.  
Indoor PE on **Tuesdays** for both **5DR** and **5RK** in **Spring 2**.

Please remember your child needs a round neck white short sleeved t-shirt and navy shorts (above the knee).

Outdoor PE on **Wednesdays** for both **5DR** and **5RK**.

Your child will need a t-shirt, navy tracksuit trousers and trainers or plimsolls.

Your child should come in wearing their PE kit on their PE days.

### Home Learning

Your child will have learning to do at home each week. These will be set every Friday. This will include:

#### Mathletics

**Big Cat** books online and books from the **class library**: We expect children to read 4-5 times a week and record this in their journal (to be signed by their parent/ carer)

#### Grammar or spellings on Google Classroom:

The class teacher will add these to the class stream on your Classroom.

**The children have some additional challenges provided in the 'Take away tasks'** Please bring these in so we can celebrate your child's work at home.

### Important dates



**Maya workshop**  
13th January

**Half term**  
Monday 13th  
February – Friday  
17th February

**Marchants Hill**  
Monday 27th February  
– Friday 3rd March

**Last day of term**  
Friday 31st March