



Class 5

Welcome to Year 5! I'm sure the children share my view that it is 'the same but different' this year. They have the same teacher, who they know really well, but with the unfamiliarity of a new classroom, new routines and a new set of topics. As I have previously said, I aim to take advantage of the familiarity by catering to the individual children's needs whilst also ensuring the children feel like they have entered a new class.

Administration

First of all, I would like to highlight some differences which will become apparent very early on. To prepare your child for Year 6 and beyond, I will be encouraging more independence and responsibility than I did in Year 4. You may not see me on the doors every morning and afternoon. This is a consequence of the children moving into upper key stage 2. We encourage children to come into school independently, allowing me to get cracking with morning lessons as soon as possible. Of course, if you ever need to speak to me please feel free to email me at liam.kershaw@netherthongprimary.co.uk and arrange a chat.

Maths

In maths, we will be covering a lot of 'essentials' to start the year. This will include place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and equivalent fractions. These are areas the children need to be confident in to ensure we can tackle the more difficult maths coming up. Please note that maths homework this year will be on Mathletics – our new online homework system. The children have had their logins over the Summer so may be familiar with it already.

English

Our English this half term will revolve around our topic, 'Out of this World'. We will be writing descriptively about a Martian landscape, as well as looking at Tim Peake and his life. To end the half term, we will be writing a science-fiction story, using the book Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce to inspire us. Spellings will continue to go out every Friday, but they will be tested on **the same words two weeks in a row**. This is to ensure the words are solid in their minds as well as giving the children the opportunity to improve on their score from the previous week.

Topic – Out of this World

Our topic this half term will be using the **science** unit of Earth, Sun and Moon as a starting point. We will look at why day turns into night, why the seasons change and why the Moon appears to alter in shape. In addition, we will be incorporating other areas of the curriculum to enrich the topic. From **geography**, we will look at time zones, continents and the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and how these are related to the Sun's position. **Art** will also be brought in by looking at different techniques for colour mixing using chalk to create artistic representations of different planets.

PHSE and RE

In RE, Mrs Lindley will be looking at why some places and journeys are deemed religiously important. PSHE this year will be taught on a Friday afternoon, by me. I will start the year looking at mental and physical health and the importance of wellbeing.

PE

PE this half term is on a Monday afternoon and a Thursday morning. On Mondays, we will be completing indoor gymnastics. We will be progressing our gymnastic skills to include balance beams. On Thursdays, the sports coach will be teaching the children netball.

Computing

This half term, we will focus on e-safety and how to navigate an ever-changing digital world.

Important Dates this half term:

Parents' Evening – Monday 21st October and Tuesday 22nd October

Break up for Half Term – Fri 25th October



Homework in Year 5

In Year 5, children are expected to do roughly half an hour of homework every day. The homework will be broken up as follows:

Spelling

As previously mentioned, the 8 spelling words will go out two weeks in a row. We expect the children to learn them as normal for the first test on the following Friday. However, to ensure the words remain cemented in their mind and are used frequently in their writing, the children will then be given the same 8 words for another week. They will know their spelling score from the first week and be expected to improve on it (unless of course, they achieved full marks!). If the children do not improve on their spelling score on the second test, they will be taken for extra practice with Mrs Greenwell on an afternoon. The words will be drawn from a combination of common spelling rules and the Year 5/6 statutory spelling list.

Mathletics

Mathletics is replacing IXL as our main online homework resource. We find it more user-friendly and more engaging for the children. Each Friday, I will set 2-3 tasks from Mathletics due for the following Friday. These tasks usually include 10 questions each based on the content they are learning in class. Your child's login for Mathletics is in their planner. They must bring their planner every week. For more information on Mathletics please check out this link: <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/features/> .

Reading and paper homework

Some weeks, I may send paper homework home. This will usually come from an area of the curriculum other than maths. I will leave clear instructions on the sheet including when it is due back in. Reading should be done every night, either with an adult or on their own. Reading is essential for improving children's understanding and vocabulary which can drive forward their progress in their writing and comprehension. I am happy to recommend books if the children need some inspiration.

Important vocabulary this half term

Based on our topic, I have included a list of important vocabulary that children should become accustomed to this half term. That includes knowing the meaning and spelling of these words. Ask your child about these words as the term progresses. Although I haven't listed them, the children should know the names of the planets as well.

Longitude Latitude Solar System Axis Orbit Time Zones Waxing Waning Tropic of Cancer Tropic of Capricorn

Thank you, as always, for your support

Mr. Kershaw