



Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 1 - Year 5

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday with plenty of time to catch up with family and friends. We now enter the ‘Spring’ term with lots to look forward to. Here is just a taster of what’s to come...

**English:** Borneo is our destination in our English lessons – we’ll become rainforest experts and travel to the other side of the World to discover the sights and sounds of the rainforests of Borneo. Along the way, the children will be writing letters of application, reports, instructions and stories. This will be a real adventure! In our SPAG lessons we’ll be covering determiners, expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, parenthesis – in particular brackets plus commas and dashes.

**Maths:** Interpreting graphs and drawing our own is where we start this half term. We shall be revisiting multiplication and division this half term, consolidating our knowledge of written methods. Please keep testing your child on their times table knowledge as fluency will help when using the written methods. Fractions will be covered in the remainder of the half term including ordering and comparing fractions, equivalent, mixed numbers, decimals into fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and solving problems. Phew!

**Art:** A big thank you to all our helpers for last half term’s D&T project – I hope you were all impressed by your child’s sewing skills! We go from sewing to drawing for our art project – over the next six weeks we shall be perfecting our perspective drawing skills by recreating a street scene. Over the 6 weeks, the children should become confident with using a vanishing point and will perfect their drawing week by week.

**Other Information:** PE kits should be in school every day (even after an afterschool club such as netball) and **children with earrings need to bring in tape to cover their ears or take jewellery out during the session.** IXL homework will be issued on a Friday to be completed by a Thursday. Spellings will go out on a Monday and tested on a Friday and then the following Friday with two unseen words which follow the same spelling rule.

**PE:** I’m very excited to write about the Strictly Pennine dance extravaganza. Ashleigh Lewis, principal of Dance Emporium, will be coming into school to teach the class a routine that they will perform at the LBT on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February – tickets for the show are on sale now from LBT box office (please be quick, they sell out fast!). Mrs Kendal will also be looking at some gymnastic skills as well as using some of the apparatus in the hall.

**Science:** In this topic we will be looking at life cycles of various species – including mammals, amphibians and birds.  
**Topic:** Our topic work links nicely with our English lessons this half term. We will be examining rainforests in more detail, finding out where in the world they are and how attitudes towards them have changed over time.

**PSHE and computing :** We’ll be looking at relationships including visible and invisible differences. We’ll look at responsibility and relate this to climate change, recycling and reusing. In computing we’ll be discovering all about databases.

**Important Dates:**

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Try It Badminton at Holmfirth High School 3:45pm
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Try It Basketball at Holmfirth High School 3:45pm (letters to follow).
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Parent’s Evenings.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of half term.



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## **How to help your child at home**

*Hilary Wilce is a former education columnist with 'The Independent', and a personal development coach. She has written many books and articles about helping your child to succeed; here are her top five ways to help your child to do well in school...*

### **1. Teach the magic word "yet"**

As in, "I haven't yet learned how to tie my shoelaces." Or "I haven't yet understood electromagnetic induction". Seeing learning as an optimistic, positive process boosts success.

### **2. Move bedtime forward**

Canadian teachers report more restlessness, volatility and frustration in 7- to 11-year-olds who get half an hour less sleep than their classmates. US researchers have found that high-school students who achieve C, D and F grades get 25 minutes less sleep than students getting A and B grades. Sleep is vital. It processes learning and regulates health.

### **3. Read together**

According to UK researchers, children who read for pleasure make more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling between the ages of 10 and 16 than those who rarely read, and reading for pleasure is more important than either wealth or social class when it comes to doing well in school.

### **4. Learn something yourself**

This means you are modelling what enjoyable, rewarding learning looks like. Also model how difficulties in learning can be overcome with cheerful fortitude!

### **5. Do nothing**

If your child acts up in class or fails to do their homework, let them take the consequences. Experiencing the results of actions is essential to good learning. Shielding your child from every bump in the school road will produce a passive, dependent learner.