



Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 2 - Year 5

So spring has well and truly sprung! This half term we will still have the privilege of Mr Watkiss's presence in class and he will be taking on more of the teaching role. The children have really got to know him well and he is a great asset to the class.

English: To complement the rainforest theme, the children will be studying Eva Ibbotson's Journey to the River Sea. As part of the Power of Reading, this text will encourage the children to keep a reading journal, research rainforest animals and write several extended pieces of writing, keeping the Y5 writing targets in mind. In grammar we will revise fronted adverbials, direct speech, suffixes and prefixes plus commas to avoid ambiguity.

Maths: We still have a few weeks of lessons on fractions – it's a large area with a lot to learn about, but I'm encouraged by our progress from last half term and I'm sure we'll finish this unit off in style. It's then onto statistics, geometry and revision of the four operations. Towards the end of term, we will carry out the NFER Spring Test – I will share this information with you and you are welcome to look at the papers the children have completed.

D&T: Cooking is on the menu! Complementing our Healthy Lifestyles PE curriculum, we shall be looking at food groups and making good choices in terms of snacks. I shall be asking the children to keep a food diary for a week. We will create snacks to take home over the final four weeks – I will be asking for a contribution of a £1 a week to cover the cost of ingredients. In the final week we shall take inspiration from the imminent Easter celebrations and make simnel muffins.

Science: Let's get moving! In this topic we will be learning about forces and machines. We will cover gravity and friction before investigating how simple machines work.

RE: This half term's theme is 'what matters most'. We will also revisit the Easter story.

French: The theme is 'Scene de Plage' to get us in the holiday mood!

PE: The Sports Partnership will be in school to teach the children about football and ball skills. On Thursdays, Mrs Kendal will be teaching the children various multi-skills and this will be outside if the weather is good – please ensure PE kits (with outdoor kit AND trainers) are in school every day and that children with earrings have tape if they cannot take them out.

Topic: Our rainforest topic will continue and we will take a closer look at the history of the Amazon. The children will also explore the current issues affecting the rainforests including deforestation, commercial fishing and poaching.

PSHE: We will continue the theme of relationships and explore the different types of relationship that people can have. We will also look into the issue of forced marriage.

Music: Using the Charanga resources the children will be learning the theme to 'The Fresh Prince of Bel air'!

Important Dates:

Thursday 28th February – Strictly Pennine LBT
Thursday 7th March – World Book Day
Thursday 21st March – Family Sharing
Monday 8th April – Open Learning day for parents (2pm)
Friday 12th April – last day of half term.



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. Please note there will be no formal spellings going home this half term.

How to help your child at home

Spelling continues to be a difficult area for some children, even though they may achieve 10 out of 10 in their weekly spelling tests, this is not translating into their everyday writing in English.

Word building tends to be the problem – for example, many children may spell ‘jumped’ as ‘junt’ as they are simply writing down what they can hear. I encourage children to think about the word and its meaning – the etymology. With this example, ‘junt’, you are trying to make something into the past tense – how do we do that in most cases? Add ‘ed’. I often talk about the ‘root’ word – the basic original part or the word in its own right. Consider how to build words up –

‘indescribable’ – think about the word describe, then the prefix ‘in’ and the suffix ‘able’, then the rule about dropping the ‘e’.

When you are reading with your child, highlight words like these, talk about how they are built up. Also look at odd spellings such as ‘chaos’, ‘listen’, ‘castle’, ‘knowledge’ etc. Have a conversation about these words, ask your child ‘what’s unusual about the spelling?’. Use a dictionary to find these words and discuss their origins. Cover the word at the point of reading and see if they can remember what was unusual about the word.

Below are some words that the children will come across this half term, please can you check their understanding of them, perhaps have a discussion about them and try to use them in a sentenc

New Vocabulary for this Half-term

Ambiguous	Carbohydrate	Guardian	Hostile	Mahogany	Imminent
Protein	Hamlet	Emigrate	Tributary	Sauté	Empowering