

Year 5 Newsletter October 2026

Year 5 have settled extremely well in this first half term and we have been impressed with their knowledge and enthusiasm!

In English, the children have revisited how to 'show' character and create descriptive settings in their writing and they are now working hard on refining the writing skills they need to build suspense. Over the last few weeks, they have looked through a model text and built up their 'writing toolkit' ready for them to innovate their own suspense stories this week. Challenge your child to tell you the features of the toolkit that they might use to create suspense in their writing!

In Reading lessons, the children have been learning how a setting and character can be linked in their understanding of a text as well as unpicking the meaning of the illustrations in the picture book 'The Promise'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this book so see if they can retell the story to you. Lots of children have already met their Accelerated Reader targets, earning them a credit, and the classes are showing that they want to be the Year 5 class to achieve the most words read and quizzes passed by the end of the year!

In their Maths lessons, the children have shown positivity, aspiration and resilience in their learning about place value and working with numbers up to one million and we are now revisiting and expanding their knowledge of addition and subtraction. Please encourage your child to keep practising their times tables regularly as they will be vitally important to their learning about multiplication, division and fractions after half term.

This half term, Year 5 have been learning about properties and their materials in Science and so far, they have investigated which materials are soluble and which are insoluble; they have investigated how to recover soluble materials from a solution; and they recently investigated the best materials to use to filter dirty water if they were stranded on a desert island!

In History, our key question this half term has been 'Did the Anglo-Saxon era deserve to be known as the Dark Ages?' The children have learned about the possible reasons as to why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and they have enjoyed acting out the different methods of trial for different crimes. Towards the end of this term, we will visit the Time and Tide Museum to kick off our Vikings unit for next half term.

The children have enjoyed plenty of opportunities to show off their creativity within our portrait unit in Art, where they have used lots of different mediums including paint, oil pastels and sketching pencils to create different portraits and self-portraits. We have been very impressed with the artistic skills on display in our year group!

In RE, they have learned about the festival of Diwali in the Hindu religion and they will take part in a Diwali afternoon in the first week back after half term, in which they will light the Diya lamps they made, create Rangoli patterns and taste some traditional foods.

The focus of our RSHE unit this half term has been emotions and the children have been thoughtful, respectful and considered in their discussions about how to handle different scenarios and their understanding of how different people can react differently in certain situations.

Finally, in Music, the children have been incredible in their effort and enthusiasm towards learning the lyrics and sign language for our song this half term: 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi. They have relished in the opportunity to perform, and listen to, a number of songs from the rock genre and we are looking forward to sharing this with you, along with a couple of other musical treats, at a parent café in the Summer Term.

Thank you for all of your support so far this school year and we look forward to catching up with you at the Parents' Evenings over the next few weeks. From everyone in Year 5, we hope you have a great weekend!