

Year 5 Spring Term Newsletter – January 2026

Dear Year 5 students and families,

Welcome back, everyone, and happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and are feeling refreshed for the Spring term ahead. It has been lovely welcoming the children back into class and seeing their enthusiasm and smiles as we begin a new term of learning together. We're looking forward to an exciting few months filled with new topics, challenges and opportunities, and we're grateful for your continued support as we work together to help the children thrive.

Autumn term topic

This term, we will be focusing on two topics. Britain's settlements by Anglo-Saxons and Scots, Vs. The Vikings! We will be first be looking at the decline of the Roman Empire, study the invasions that took place in wake of this, investigating Anglo-Saxon settlements, the battles between Anglo-Saxons and Britons, King Arthur, and growing up in Anglo-Saxon Britain. Moving swiftly onto Vikings – who they were, where they came from and why they invaded, Viking raids and invasion of Britain, Viking tactics, weapons, and why long-ships were so effective, living and growing up in Viking times and studying the resistance led by Alfred the Great, the English reconquest, Ethelred, the Danegeld and the invasion of King Canute.

English

The carefully structured lessons from our new HfL sequences support the development of key writing skills and embed essential writerly techniques, enabling children to write with increasing confidence, purpose, and creativity.

Our next sequence of lessons is to write to persuade using the text 'The Misadventures of Frederick' – the class will be writing a letter to Mr England, or a member of SLT trying to persuade them to change something in our school!

Unit 6 of Essentials Writing after this will be looking at the text 'The ground beneath my feet', and writing a non-chronological class text titled 'The World around us'.

We also gained new grammatical knowledge last term, such as embedded relative clauses, subordinate clauses, expanded noun phrases, commas for ambiguity, simple past tense and expanded noun phrases.

I cannot wait to see where the writing takes the class this term!

Mathematics

The whole class did brilliantly on their most recent diagnostic papers back in November, which shows just how hard they all work.

The first learning sequence this term is looking at all things fraction related! Equivalent fractions, working with tenths and hundredths, comparing, and ordering fractions, adding and subtracting fractions moving onto problem solving with fractions. The following term, we will be working on units of measure, percentages, onto 2D and 3D shapes to finally putting it all together solving different types of word problems.

Mathematics continued!

Problem-solving is at the heart of maths and is an essential skill for everyday life. It helps us think logically, make decisions, and find solutions to challenges we face, whether it's planning a budget, reading a timetable, or even working out how much time we must get ready in the morning! By practicing problem-solving, we learn to break tasks into smaller steps, explore different strategies, and build confidence in tackling tricky situations. It's not just about numbers—it's about developing skills that help us thrive in the real world. Anything that you can do at home to help with problem-solving would be very beneficial for your child/ren.

Other Core Subjects

We are very much looking forward to embedding more of our 'revamped' curriculum this year. More information of our 'Intent', 'Implement' and 'Impact' reports are found on our website.

Science: We begin by looking at properties and changes in materials in the first half term. We then look at Earth and Space for the second half.

Computing: The first half will concentrate upon data handling/ Mars Rover, onto the second programming stage in the second half of term. Online safety 3 and 4 will also be taught throughout the term too.

PE: I will still be delivering PE on a **Monday** this term, and Premier will be delivering lessons on a **Thursday**. I will be teaching '*Orienteering*' both terms, and Premier will be delivering Gymnastics first, followed by Football in Spring term 2.

MFL: Our first topic is all about '*The Weather*' followed by '*Habitats*' in Spring 2.

Geography: We will be concentrating a lot upon map work – where the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings invaded/where they came from...

Music: Spring 1 we are looking at music from South and West Africa, followed by music from the Holi festival Spring 2.

PSHCE: Spring 1 – all about being a good citizen followed by 'Economic well-being' in Spring 2.

Library: Every **Thursday** afternoon with Mrs Giles.

Please see the ALJ creative curriculum overview on the school website, for more information.

As we look ahead, it's clear that this term will be filled with hard work, exciting challenges, and plenty of opportunities for growth. From tackling new concepts in maths and writing imaginative stories to exploring fascinating topics in our wider curriculum, there's so much to look forward to! We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination the children have already shown and can't wait to see them rise to each new challenge. Let's embrace this term with positivity, curiosity, and a commitment to doing our best together!

Finally, please can we remind you to check in on Google Classroom each week to read about any homework posted, the 'Peek at the Week' where we will post about the learning happening each week and any reminders for you to keep on top of!

Let's have a great term together!

Miss Howley and Mrs Giles.