

Year 5 Newsletter

Autumn 1—2026

Reading

This term, the children are reading 'Where the Mountain Meets the Moon' by Grace Lin. Min-li—a young, adventurous Chinese girl—lives in the barren Fruitless Mountain. Inspired by her father's folktales, she buys a magical goldfish and sets out on a quest of to change her family's fortune. Along the way, the story covers topics of friendship, resilience and acceptance. This fantasy adventure story is inspired by Chinese folklore.

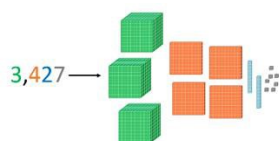
Writing

This term, we'll bring the short film, *The Catch*, to life through action narratives. Children will experiment with sentence types and writing techniques to shape the reader's experience, weaving setting details into the action and reflecting the character's emotions through speech and setting.



Maths

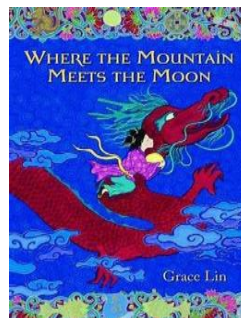
In maths this half term, the children are learning about place value, exploring the composition of numbers in a variety of representations. The children will also be learning both mental and formal written methods of addition and subtraction, moving onto multiplication at the end of the half term.



Key Dates

Meet the Teacher: ????

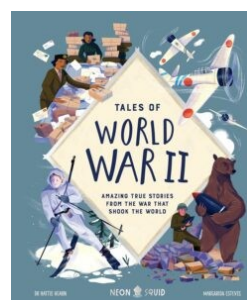
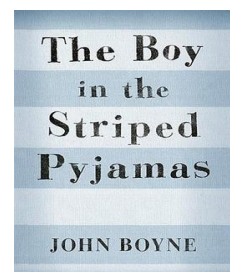
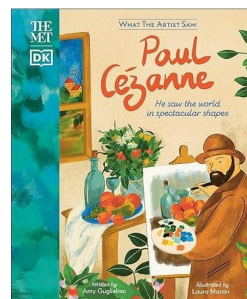
Whole Class Reading



Class Read



Suggested Books for Reading



Science

This term, Year 5 will investigate the fascinating world of light through practical experiments and inquiry. They'll explore how light travels through different materials, how shadows are formed and how the angle of light affects a shadow's shape—developing scientific thinking and curiosity along the way. Children will also examine how we see objects by investigating the difference between reflection and refraction, deepening their understanding of how light behaves.



History



This term, the children will explore how Adolf Hitler rose to power by drawing conclusions from a range of sources. This will include understanding some of the causes of World War Two, German occupation and the resistance movement throughout Europe. The children will also study how the Nazi Party used propaganda to gain popularity as well as how Jewish people were persecuted by the Nazi Party.

Art

Children will explore how to create perspective through drawing. They will experiment with a range of techniques such as overlapping objects and varying the tone and contrast to create the a foreground and background. They will then plan, create and review their final pieces.

In addition, the children will learn about the work of Paul Cézanne and how he created perspective through his artwork.



PE

Handball

Children will learn to: dribble using techniques while defending the ball, choose the most effective passes depending on the situation and demonstrate the correct shooting technique.

During indoor PE lessons, the children will develop their ball skills and reaction and response through focused skill development.

RE

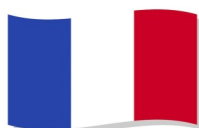
This half term, the children will be answering the question: How do Hindus see Brahman? In this unit, pupils will investigate ideas of the divine in Hindu dharma. The story of Svetakeatu will help them understand the idea of Brahman in all things. They will examine deities and man-dirs to see Hindu dharma is pluralist and the divine can be perceived in many ways.

Computing

This half term, the children will begin a unit studying *Data Handling: How Can Spreadsheets Help Us?* Children will explore how spreadsheets can be used to organise and analyse information. They will learn what a spreadsheet is, how to edit and format one so it is clear and fit for purpose and how formulas allow spreadsheets to make calculations automatically. Children will apply these skills to real life problem-solving by designing their own spreadsheet to help plan an event.

French

This half term in French, we are expanding on prior learning to develop conversational skills around school life. We began by exploring vocabulary for school subjects and practicing how to express preferences—what we enjoy and what we don't. Next, we'll focus on discussing the school timetable, learning how to talk about daily routines, tell the time and sequence events. Through engaging activities and practical dialogue, students will build confidence in using French to describe their school experience.



PSHE

This term in PSHE, Year 5 will explore the Jigsaw unit *Being Me in My World*. Through thoughtful discussion and collaborative activities, children will reflect on their personal identity, recognise their self-worth and consider their roles within the school and wider community. They'll examine rights, responsibilities and the impact of their choices while learning to manage emotions and understand others' perspectives. By creating and owning their Learning Charter, children will build a foundation for respectful relationships and positive classroom dynamics.