

# Year 5

## Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



### KEY DATES

End of Term 1:  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Start of Term 2:  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Parent Conferences:  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

## English & Grammar

This term in English, the class will be reading *John Diamond* by Leon Garfield. *John Diamond* was first published in 1980, to great critical acclaim. The novel tells the story of a young boy, William Jones, who, when his father dies, journeys to London to discover the truth about his father's mysterious career. Along the way, he meets a number of sinister and strange characters, fights off vicious street urchins and encounters cunning and deceptive lawyers. *John Diamond* is a suspenseful, witty and intriguing tale of life in 19th century London, where pickpockets and gangs roam the streets, and where the urban poor struggle to survive in the slums. As well as reading the novel and exploring the ambitious vocabulary it contains, children will write diary entries from William Jones' perspective. This will give them the opportunity to practise using techniques which help to convey characters' emotional responses.

This term in Grammar, the class will be reviewing the rules for punctuating direct speech, including how to write a dialogue between two or more speakers. They will learn how to enrich their sentences with parenthetical information, including how to use relative clauses. In their daily English language homework, they will continue to consolidate knowledge such as how to use the apostrophes of possession and contraction correctly, and how to distinguish between fact and opinion.

## British History

This term, children will study the Gunpowder Plot - an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament on 5th November, 1605. They will discover the motivations behind the attempted plot, how it was foiled and what the consequences were for the important individuals and for England. Key figures include James I, Robert Cecil and Guy Fawkes.

**Vocabulary:** commemorate, persecution, install, anonymous, tainted

## Ancient History

We will study the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (which existed in northern India and Pakistan). Children will learn about the fascinatingly mysterious Harappan people. We know very little about them, largely because their writing system has remained indecipherable. However, we will explore the latest knowledge gathered from archaeological remains. There will be a focus on the advanced cities of the Indus Valley civilisation, with their complex sanitation systems and luxury artefacts, and we will compare the Indus Valley Civilisation's development to that of the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians, in particular thinking about the role of rivers.

**Vocabulary:** Indus Valley, Harappan, civilisation, significance, technology, trade, artefact, deity

## Geography

In Year 5, the children will be revising and expanding the geographical knowledge they learned last year, with a particular focus on applying their knowledge to the continent of Europe and on developing their knowledge of important European locations. We begin by learning about how geographers use maps, compass points and lines of latitude and longitude to describe locations. We then study the seasons so that we can describe and understand how seasons vary within Europe. We then move on to other important topics in physical geography: oceans and seas, coasts, the structure of the Earth, mountains, glaciation, volcanoes and earthquakes.

## Maths

In the autumn term, children will learn how to:

### Place Value and Number

- Read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1,000,000 and identify the value of each digit
- Read Roman numerals to 1,000 (M) and recognise years written in Roman numerals
- Interpret negative numbers in context
- Round any number to 1,000,000 to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 and 100,000
- Use all the above knowledge to solve reasoning problems and use rounding to check answers to calculations (as well as estimate and approximate the answers)

### Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

- Add and subtract numbers with more than four digits using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction)
- Solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division multi-step problems, deciding which operation and method to use and giving a reason for the choice
- Identify multiples and factors, including finding all factor pairs of a number and common factors of two numbers
- Recognise and use prime numbers, composite numbers, square numbers and cube numbers, including the notation for square [<sup>2</sup>] and cube [<sup>3</sup>] numbers
- Multiply and divide whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1000

### Statistics

- Read and interpret information presented in tables, charts and line graphs
- Measure and calculate the perimeter and area of rectangles (including squares), and estimate the area of regular shapes

**Key vocabulary:** place value, millions, digits, numbers, partition, greater than, less than, ascending, descending, round, rounded to, multiple, regroup, exchange, factor, multiple, common factor, multiple, prime number, composite number, square number, cube number, convert, perimeter, rectilinear, polygon, regular, irregular

## Science

This term, the children will study biology. They will begin by learning about the classification of organisms into kingdoms, including an understanding of DNA and the structure of cells. Later, they will focus on plants, learning especially about plant nutrition and plant reproduction.

In the second half of term, they will move on to expand their knowledge of organ systems in the human body, focusing on the immune, nervous and endocrine systems. As part of this, they will learn about how vaccines work.

Throughout the term, the children will consolidate and develop their understanding of the scientific method, including an appreciation of the importance of evidence in scientific enquiry. They will learn about the important contributions made by figures such as George Washington Carver, Ibn Sina and Gertrude Elion.

## Latin

This term, the children will consolidate their knowledge of subjects and objects. They will learn how, while English uses word order to reveal which word is a subject and which is the object, Latin uses the ending of its nouns. Over the course of the term, they will use this knowledge to translate increasingly complex sentences, including ones with multiple clauses. They will then move on to learning their first Latin adjectives. They will discover that, while English uses word order to show which adjective describes which noun, Latin uses the ending of the adjective.

Alongside this, children will also be learning a wide range of Latin vocabulary, and they will explore some of the English words that come from these Latin words. Their challenge is to use these new words in their creative writing in other subjects!

## PSHE

During the first few weeks of term, as we welcomed children back to school, form teachers spent a considerable amount of time getting to know the children in their classes. As part of this, the children revised the school's rules and routines, and discussed how these rules will help them have a happy and successful year. They also explored the importance of respectful relationships and discussed the practical steps we can take in a range of contexts to improve and support them. The children also explored their own identity and considered what made them special and unique, helping them to appreciate the importance of self-respect.

Much of this autumn term will be devoted to learning about Britain's democratic system, including local and devolved government, and the rule of law. The children will begin by learning about the three parts of Parliament, about how laws are formed and about the political process, including the role of the government, the opposition and the civil service. They will then be introduced to the distinction between the legislature and the judiciary, and they will explore the role of the police.

Towards the end of term, the children will study 'financial literacy'. They will learn about the function of money and how it developed; why people save and what interest is; how we consider both income and outgoings when planning our finances; and the different forms of taxation.

Over the course of the year, our PSHCE curriculum aims to help children learn to live as kind, tolerant members of our diverse community, and to give them an understanding of how to keep themselves safe and both physically and mentally healthy. Our teaching will be adapted to the needs of our children and will respond to issues and events in our community and in the wider world.

## Religious Education

Over the course of this academic year, the children will study the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We begin the term by learning about the Bible and by reading some of its most significant narratives, including Creation; Adam and Eve, and the Fall; Noah's Ark and the Flood; and the testing of Abraham. As the children study them, they will be encouraged to understand the different ways in which they have been interpreted, focusing on the difference between literal and metaphorical interpretations.

Towards the end of term, we shall move on to begin studying Judaism. The children will learn Jews' major beliefs, including about God and the Messiah, and they will develop an understanding of how Jews differ in their beliefs and practices. This will set them up for a more detailed study of this faith in the spring term.

## Music

This term, Year 5 will be consolidating and expanding their knowledge of how to read and to write music while learning to play an instrument (different children are learning different instruments). They will learn to use subject-specific vocabulary, such as *stave*, *bass clef*, *treble clef*, *time signature*, *bar line*, *double bar line*, *bar*, *rest*, *minim*, *quaver*, *crotchet*, *rhythm*, *pitch*, and *dynamics*; and they will relate these to other aspects of the music they hear and make.

## PE

This term, we will be doing basketball and fitness. Basketball will focus on passing, shooting and dribbling with a significant emphasis on teamwork and co-operation. In fitness we will be looking at different muscle groups and building stamina.