Year 5 Newsletter

November 2026

Welcome back to Year 5! We hope you had a lovely October half term break and enjoyed some well-deserved rest and relaxation. The children have settled back into school brilliantly and it has been wonderful to see all their smiling faces again! We have lots of exciting topics and activities planned for this term, and we are looking forward to another fantastic half term of learning together!

Writing

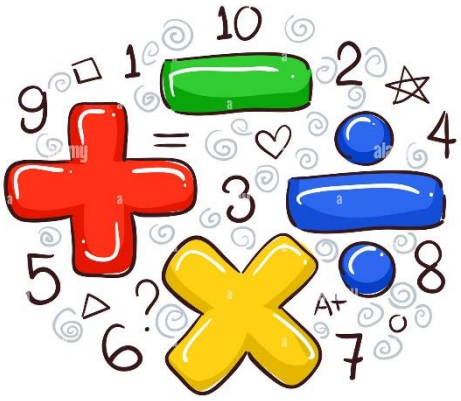
This half term, the children will begin by exploring the purpose of narrative writing through our unit, Replay. They will write their own engaging narratives, focusing on describing settings and characters to create atmosphere and build suspense and tension for the reader. They will develop their use of pronouns and nouns to help their writing flow, as well as revisiting accurate sentence punctuation and learning how to use commas to indicate parenthesis.

The children will then move on to our historical recount unit, Chernobyl. They will write to inform, exploring the devastating events of the Chernobyl disaster. They will develop their use of time, place and number adverbials to sequence events and link ideas, as well as using a range of tenses to add detail and accuracy to their recounts. They will also learn how to use modal verbs and adverbs to indicate possibility and help create an informative and engaging piece of writing.

Maths

This half term, the children will begin by continuing to develop their understanding of decimal fractions. They will read, write, order and compare numbers with up to three decimal places, exploring thousandths and how these relate to tenths, hundredths and their decimal equivalents. They will also practise rounding decimals to two decimal places and to the nearest whole number.

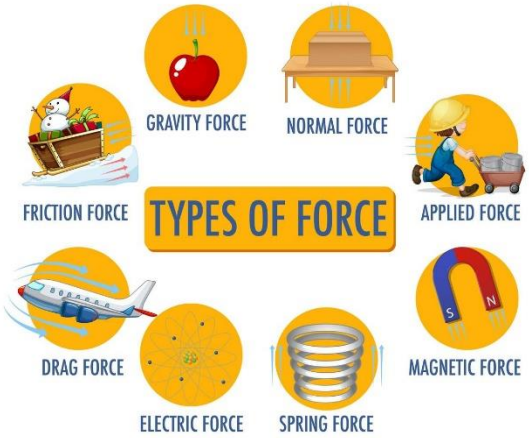
Following this, the children will explore negative numbers, learning to count forwards and backwards through zero and interpret negative values in different contexts. They will also develop their problem-solving skills by using information presented in line graphs to solve comparison, sum and difference problems.



Finally, the children will focus on multiplication and division, developing their mental calculation strategies and learning to use formal written methods, including short division and long multiplication. They will apply these skills to solve a range of problems involving all four operations, including multi-step calculations and understanding the importance of the equals sign.

Science

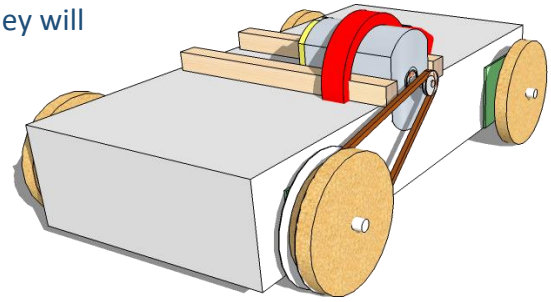
This half term, the children will be learning about Forces. They will explore the effects of friction, air resistance and water resistance, developing their understanding of how these forces affect the movement of objects in everyday life. They will carry out investigations to explore how the size of a parachute affects the time it takes to fall and how the shape of an object affects how quickly it sinks through water. The children will also learn about gravity and how it pulls objects towards the Earth. Finally, they will explore different mechanisms, including levers, gears and pulleys, investigating how these can help us move objects using less force. They will use practical activities and experiments to develop their scientific enquiry skills and deepen their understanding of how forces work in the world around us.

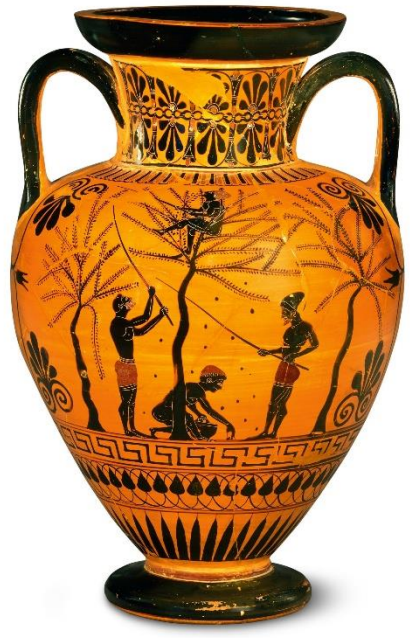


Art / DT

This half term, the children will begin by completing their British Woodland Animals artwork. They will use the drawing skills and techniques they have developed to finish their detailed observational drawings, focusing on capturing the features, textures and details of their chosen woodland animals.

Following this, the children will move on to Design and Technology, where they will explore mechanical systems through the design and creation of motorised vehicles. They will investigate how gears and pulleys work and explore how electrical systems can be used to power movement. The children will develop their understanding of how these components work together before applying their knowledge and creativity to design and make their own motorised vehicle.





History

This half term, the children will begin by completing their learning about Ancient Greece. They will continue to explore the achievements and influence of Ancient Greek civilisation, developing their understanding of its lasting impact on the modern world.

Following this, the children will move on to Geography, where they will be learning about Mountains. They will explore how mountains are formed, identify different mountain ranges around the world and develop their understanding of the key features of mountainous environments. They will investigate how people live and work in these areas, as well as exploring the challenges and opportunities that mountains present. The children will also develop their geographical skills by using maps, atlases and other sources to locate and compare mountain ranges around the world.

P.E

The children will continue to have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Mondays, they will need their outdoor PE kit, while on Wednesdays they will need their indoor PE kit. This term, the children will be developing their skills through outdoor basketball and indoor gymnastics. In basketball, they will focus on developing their dribbling, passing, shooting and teamwork skills, while learning about tactics and playing fairly. In gymnastics, they will explore different movements, balances and sequences, developing their

strength, flexibility, coordination and control. The children will also be encouraged to build confidence, challenge themselves and demonstrate positive attitudes throughout their PE lessons.

Reading

This half term, the children will be moving on to a novel study, exploring Clockwork by Philip Pullman. They will immerse themselves in the story, developing their understanding of characters, settings and plot, while exploring the author's use of language and storytelling techniques. Through reading and discussion, the children will develop their vocabulary, inference and comprehension skills, making predictions, exploring themes and considering the author's intentions. They will also have opportunities to share their thoughts and opinions, supporting their ideas with evidence from the text.

Please make every effort to ensure your child reads at least 3 times a week at home and sign their reading diary. We are continuing to monitor and reward children every Friday when they have read 3 times. Children have the opportunity to change their reading books on a Monday and a Thursday.

Star of the Week

We look forward to our celebration assembly every Friday in school. Star of the week certificates are given out each week linked to our school values.



Thank you for your continued support

The Year 5 Team