New Forest



Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

Staff	Year 5 key dates:	
5NW Miss Webber, Year Leader	Tuesday 20th October	Parent Consultations 3.30pm–6.30pm
5LD Mr Dunningham	Thursday 22nd October	Parent Consultations 3.30pm–6.30pm
5RS/CM Miss Sealy/Mrs Mullis	Friday 23rd October	Last Day of Half Term
	Monday 2nd November	Inset Day
Learning Support Assistants:	Tuesday 3rd November	Return to School after half term
Mrs Cairns	Friday 27th November	Open afternoon- DT
Miss Erdogan	Tuesday 15th December	Carol Service 6:30pm
	Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Welcome to Year 5!
Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school and to Year 5. We are pleased with how all the children have settled back into school after the summer holidays and how they have responded maturely to new routines. There are many exciting opportunities for the children during Year 5, and we are very much looking forward to the coming year.

Geography - We are really excited about our geography learning as it focuses on a place near and dear to us all, the **New Forest**! As a part of our project about the New Forest, the children will study human impact upon the National Park and practise their map reading skills. Back at school we will consider what makes this area so special; looking at its locality within Hampshire and the UK. They will identify the physical features and develop **mapping skills**. We will investigate the varied and unique habitats within the New Forest with staff from the National Park Authority and learn more about the wildlife to be found in each. We shall learn more about the roles of the Verderers, Agisters and Commoners and understand how they help to protect the National Park

English – Our first unit of work focuses on letter writing and speeches using the book: The Crown. We will write **balanced arguments** based on our trip to the New Forest. Following this, a visit from storyteller, Chris Connaughton will launch our English unit exploring the legend of **Robin Hood**. We shall also be looking at **poetry** towards the end of term.



Mathematics - the key themes of learning this term are **place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division as well as fractions and statistics**. **Times Tables** continue to be invaluable as the children embark on the 'Times Tables Challenge' in which their speed of recall is tested.

Science - this half term, we shall be looking at the **cardiovascular system** and its effect on our bodies. This will be followed by **Earth & Space** in the second half of the term. There will be lots of opportunities for practical investigations. This will also link with our **French** lessons where we will be learning the names of the planets, after having studied classroom instructions.

RE - we will be focusing on **Belonging** and thinking about how we belong and how **Belonging** is shown in **Islam**, followed by **Interpretation** and its significance in **religious stories**.

Art - lessons will be inspired by the leaves and forest foliage, as well as **observational drawing** and sketching of our beautiful wildlife.

Design and Technology - later this term the children will **cut and measure wood** to create a frame for a **moving toy**. They will learn about cams and how the shape of the cam changes the movement of their toy.

ICT and Computing - the children will continue to develop their **computer literacy i**ncluding using Publisher to input and manipulate pictures.

PSHE - we will be looking at **friendships** and **relationships**, and valuing difference in society.

Music – we will be looking at listening and **responding to music** as well as **composing** our own pieces using percussion. The children will focus on the pitch and duration of the sounds they are making, as well as how the music they are making sounds played with other members of the class in the structure of an ensemble.

French – we will begin with a recapping and reminding the children about classroom instructions in French. Then, to link with our Science project, we learn the names of the planets and how we can describe their size and colour.

P.E. and **Games -** sessions for all Year 5 classes take place on a **Monday afternoon.** We would like to remind you that children need the following PE kit in school: plain white t-shirts, black or navy blue shorts and for the outside, school fleeces (not tops with brand logos), black or navy blue tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls for indoors / trainers for outdoors, as they will be focusing on **netball** and **rugby** this term and will be outside. In **gymnastics** we shall be focusing on shape and balance**.** No jewellery to be worn for PE lesson and hair tied back for safety reasons.

Homework



Spellings - are given out on a **Monday** and tested the following **Monday.**

English homework - will be issued on a **Monday** via **Google Classroom** and must be completed by the following **Monday**. This will alternate with one week being a grammar / punctuation activity linked to our learning and the alternate week time spent using Reading Plus.

Maths homework – is issued on **Mathletics** or **TT Rockstars** on a **Monday** and must be completed by the following **Monday.** In addition to these tasks, we would like children to **practise their times tables regularly**, aiming to improve their speed and accuracy of recall.

Please make sure children log onto **Reading Plus, SpellZone, Rollama TT Rock Stars and Mathletics** to aid their reading comprehension speed and stamina, spelling and mathematic fluency.

How can you help?



Reading — Reading at home greatly supports children's reading and writing at school. Please find time to read with your child and ask a range of who, what, where, when and why questions about the characters and their motives, the story setting, plot and subject matter. Prompt the children to explain their answers using what they have read. Read to them and help them to develop a love of reading and books. Please record and reading in your child's homework diary.

Home Learning — Help your child to complete their homework where necessary; help them to build structure into their week and a regular routine; encourage them to be responsible for meeting deadlines.

Spellings and Tables — Support your child with spelling and times-tables practice, in preparation for our weekly tests. Children can also access **SpellZone** at any time, using it to improve their spellings and move through their 'My Pathway' activities.**TT Rock Stars** is an excellent way for your child to build their fluency and rapid recall of multiplication and division facts.

Mathletics and Reading Plus — will be set as homework, however we also expect these to be completed regularly at home. Reading Plus should be used at least twice a week at home.

Finally, should you have any ideas, concerns, questions or comments, please feel free to make an appointment for a discussion or catch us at the end of the school day.

Alternatively, you can write a comment in your child's **homework diary** - please make sure your child knows the comment is in there so that they can bring it to show us. Your queries can then be addressed swiftly instead of being delayed. Children's homework diaries will be **signed** by the **teacher** each week on **Friday**, please make sure you have reviewed their diary and signed the evening before.

Thank you for your continued support — Miss Webber, Year 5 Leader and the Year 5 Team.