



Year 5 - Autumn Term 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome your child to the start of a new academic year and the beginning of their time in Year 5. We are glad to have the children back in school and are eager to deliver an exciting and engaging curriculum. The Autumn Term is going to be very busy and will be both challenging and rewarding for all pupils.

English

What an exciting term we have planned in terms of your child's English lessons! Your child will be reading several novels, enabling them to investigate a variety of authors' writing styles as well as writing their own stories and non-fiction pieces.



We will begin with the novel, 'The Lost Happy Ending' by Carol Ann Duffy. We will also be reading, 'Eye of the Wolf' by Daniel Pennac and the picture book 'Snow White in New York' by Fiona French. Your child will be completing daily word and sentence level tasks which will allow them to develop their vocabulary, grammar and knowledge on sentence types and structures which they will then be encouraged to use in their daily written work. Please remember that your child must read every night for at least 10-15 minutes; this reading should be recorded in your child's planner as this is checked every day at school.

Your child will continue to have guided reading lessons this year, as well as Reading Plus, which will improve their comprehension skills and ignite a passion for reading.

Mathematics

This term we will cover all areas of mathematics through recapping methods and strategies and then providing opportunities for the children to apply these skills within problem solving tasks, maths investigations and puzzles. This will enable your child to refine and improve their skills as well as to develop them into independent learners in their preparation for Year Six.

Your child will also have weekly mental maths tests to improve and refine their mental calculations. It is essential that your child practises the areas of mental maths that they



are weaker at and that has been identified by their teacher. 'Mathletics' is an excellent website for the children to use in order to practise their mental maths skills. We will also be continuing to use the 'Times Tables Rockstars' website to support and encourage the children with their times tables. During the week, the children will be practising their knowledge and speed in answering questions.

Science

The BBC website provides excellent background reading and interactive activities for your child's learning in Science. The main topic during this term will be 'Materials and their properties'. This topic is very hands-on and your child will be completing and devising many experiments to gain first-hand observations and knowledge. Our key focus will be on reversible and irreversible changes of state as well as chemical reactions.



History and Geography



Our main topic for this term is called 'Archaeologists'. This theme is based around the Ancient Egyptians. It will be cross-curricular, encompassing many of the other subjects e.g. Geography, History, D.T., Music and Art. We will be focusing on knowledge, investigative and interpreting skills. It is a topic that is very interesting, fun and thought provoking. The children will dig into the past and will certainly enjoy what they find and what is asked of them.

PSHE

Personal, social, health and economic education is extremely important for all children, especially in the current climate where life has not been what we are used to. During PSHE lessons, we will continue to develop an understanding of the world around us by engaging in rich discussion. We will be continuing our PSHE scheme which, in the Autumn term, will focus on 'Health and Well-being'. This theme covers topics such as, setting goals, healthy eating, physical and mental health.



PSHE

Music

In music, we will continue to use the Charanga scheme of learning. The first unit of work is focused around one song: 'Livin' On A Prayer'. The material presents an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc),

singing and playing instruments are all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise other classic rock songs. In the second half term our music lesson will focus on jazz music. All the learning will be focused around two tunes and improvising: Three Note Bossa and Five Note Swing.

Art and DT

Within our art lessons we will be exploring Egyptian art, specifically focusing on the technique of sketching. Our lessons will explore the use of shading to create mood and feeling as well as lines, tone and shape to sketch figures and forms in movement. In DT, we will be using our knowledge gained in our history lessons, to design and make an Egyptian mask as well as an Egyptian inspired amulet. We will be focusing on the skills of moulding and sculpting materials.

Computing

Our first computing unit is entitled, 'Computing systems and networks'. In this unit, learners will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. Learners will consider small-scale systems as well as large-scale systems. They will explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. In the second half term children will be learning about Vector graphics. In this unit, learners start to create vector drawings. They learn how to use different drawing tools to help them create images. Learners recognise that images in vector drawings are created using shapes and lines, and each individual element in the drawing is called an object. This unit is planned using the Google Drawings app

Homework

Your child's homework will consist of:

- A minimum of 10-15 minutes reading to be recorded in planner (and signed) daily.
- Times tables and number facts to be practised regularly at home for our weekly mental arithmetic test.
- Weekly spellings issued on Monday and tested on Friday
- Weekly CGP Books: assigned Grammar, Punctuation and spelling task, Comprehension task and Mathematics task.



In addition, our 'Weekend Wonders' initiative will enable greater flexibility and quality family time. For those families who would like their child to complete additional homework tasks, we have an optional extension homework grid where extra tasks are outlined; this is available on the Year 5 page of the school website: <https://www.whitehalljunior.org/year-5/>

Vocabulary

We are encouraging families to exploit talk and vocabulary use with their children based on the topics which are being covered in school. Research shows that the more talk and

vocabulary children are exposed to, to greater progress and attainment achieved. Therefore, please see below a list of vocabulary which your child will be exposed to this term in their learning. We are asking you to support us in the use of these words outside the classroom to deepen your child's understanding of these terms.

HISTORY – Y5 The Ancient Egyptians Vocabulary List

Word	Meaning
afterlife	Life after death
amulet	A trinket or piece of jewellery usually hung about the neck and thought to be a magical protection against evil or disease
canopic jar/vase	A jar used in ancient Egypt to contain entrails of an embalmed body
cartouche	A cartridge (usually with paper casing)
dynasty	A sequence of powerful leaders in the same family
succession	A group of people or things arranged or following in order
Egyptologist	An archaeologist who specializes in Egyptology
hieroglyphics	A writing system using picture symbols used in ancient Egypt
inundation	An overwhelming number or amount
pharaoh	The title of the ancient Egyptian kings
inscription	The activity of inscribing (especially carving or engraving) letters or words
scribe	Someone employed to make written copies of documents and manuscripts
official	A worker who holds or is invested with an office.
obelisk	A stone pillar having a rectangular cross section tapering towards a pyramidal top
papyrus	Paper made from the papyrus plant by cutting it in strips and pressing it flat
pyramid	A polyhedron having a polygonal base and triangular sides with a common vertex
architecture	The profession of designing buildings and environments with consideration for their aesthetic effect.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin (usually bearing sculpture or inscriptions)
symbol	Something visible that by association or convention represents something else that is invisible
kingdom	The domain ruled by a king or queen
mummification	Embalming and drying a dead body and wrapping it as a mummy
preserved	Kept intact or in a particular condition
embalm	To preserve a dead body
tomb	A place for the burial of a corpse (especially beneath the ground and marked by a tombstone)

civilisation	A society in an advanced state of social development (e.g., with complex legal and political and religious organisations)
ritual	The prescribed procedure for conducting religious ceremonies
treasure	Any possession that is highly valued by its owner A collection of precious things
cartouche	A cartridge (usually with paper casing)
culture	All the knowledge and values shared by a society
mythology	Myths collectively; the body of stories associated with a culture or institution or person

SCIENCE – Year 5 Properties and changing materials Unit

Word	Meaning
transparency	the quality or state of being transparent
permeable	capable of being permeated
absorb	to suck up or drink in (a liquid); soak up
dissolve	to make a solution of, as by mixing with a liquid; pass into solution
soluble	capable of being dissolved or liquefied
evaporate	to change from a liquid or solid state into vapour; pass off in vapour.
precipitate	to separate from a solution as a precipitate
condense	to reduce to another and denser form, as a gas or vapour to a liquid or solid state.

We are very much looking forward to this term and hope that your children are too. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: year5@whitehalljunior.org and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Mitchell, Mrs Norman, Miss Guernieri and Mrs Yilmaz.

Year 5 Class teachers