



# Y5 SPRING NEWSLETTER

January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

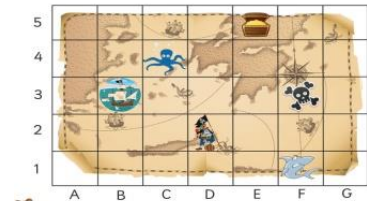
We have had an exciting and busy Autumn Term and we are now ready and eager to meet the challenges of the Spring Term! We would like to keep you informed of the events, activities and topics we hope to cover this term.



**Project:** As part of our topic unit, Year 5 will be learning about 'The Great Plague'. Over the term, we would like the children to research the topic. They could use the internet, the local library or any other resources that you may have access to. Although the project is optional, we believe it could help you to engage with your child's learning and in the process get them excited for the upcoming topics. There are a range of different activities you could do: create a PowerPoint based on your research; make your own 3D model of a rat; based on your research, you can take a tour around London of the affected areas or create a photo

album from your tour or by using images from Google. After completing your project, the children can bring them in to school to share with their class and class teacher if they would like to.

**Maths:** As mathematicians, we will continue to look at place value, which will help us understand the value of tenths, hundredths and thousandths in decimals which will then lead in to finding the equivalents between fractions, decimals and percentages. We will extend our knowledge further of the four number operations by using the formal written methods and considering the use of them in real life contexts. We will also be learning about different properties of shape with a focus on position and direction. In addition to this, we will be placing a greater emphasis on the children's mental strategies. You will also still have access to our recommended online learning sites including: [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) and [www.educationcity.com](http://www.educationcity.com). Please ask if you are unsure of log-in details.



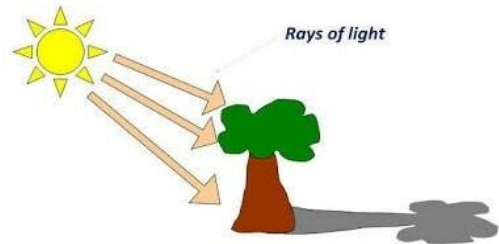
**English:** The basis of our writing will be 'Plague – Outbreak in London' by Tony Bradman. We will write a diary entry from the point of view of the character, explore the essential features of writing a suspenseful piece of writing and use our drama skills to get fully immersed in the story. We will extend our knowledge further on grammar and sentence structure; improve our skills of comprehension

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by inferring and finding evidence from the text. We will continue our focus on learning new vocabulary to further improve our sentence structure. This term, we will continue to develop the children's cursive handwriting style and learn spelling strategies. Please ensure children read every evening at home and have their reading records filled in by an adult at home.

**Science:** We will begin with an exciting unit, 'Light up your World'. We will be recognising the way in which light travels and explaining that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. We will be able to explain the relationships between light sources and our eyes. We will explore shadows through investigations and recognise that they are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object. We will find patterns in the way the size of the shadows change.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zbssgk7>



**R.E:** In Religious Education, we will be learning about Christianity this term. This will include topics such as 'The Miracles of Jesus' and 'The Journey of Life' amongst others. We will focus on the events in Jesus' life that pointed to him being more than a story teller or a teacher. We will be reading and learning about stories in the bible and miracles he performed and discovering what we can learn from this and how they apply to us. In the second half of

the term, we will be exploring the journeys connected with the Easter story; they will consider their own life journey and will be encouraged to make connections with the Christian view of life as a journey.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/history/miraclesofjesus\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/history/miraclesofjesus_1.shtml)

### Topic:

We will kick off spring term with the topic 'Ring a Ring of Roses' where we explore the horrendous causes and consequences of the Black Death. As medics, we will be able to identify the symptoms of the Black Death and use knowledge of modern day hygiene and epidemiology in a written report. We will suggest causes for the Black Death, explore a range of 'old wives' tales' today and evaluate the dangers associated with hearsay.



In Design and Technology, we will think about the emergency services that were (or were not) available to the people of this time. Using our knowledge of the era, we will design and create an emergency vehicle. In the second half of the term, we will explore 'The Stone Age'. We will take the role of an archaeologist and report our findings, explore Early Briton's settlements and design and create our own.



**Computing:** This term we will be sending and receiving messages in semaphore; we will become familiar with what the Morse code is and extend our learning by sending and receiving messages using the Morse code beyond the line of sight. We will also learn to encrypt and decrypt messages in simple ciphers. In the second half of the term, we will be using a variety of software to design and create digital content, in this case geometric art. They will get the opportunity to develop their programming skills, drawing on sequence and repetition ideas, as well as logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking and debugging, which the pupils will be familiar with from other programming work.

**PSHE:** We will be focussing on developing the children's knowledge, understanding and skills in four key social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, self-awareness, social skills and motivation. This will give children the opportunity to see things from other people's point of view and respect the differences we have.

**Music:** In music this term, we will be focussing on improvising and composing simple pieces on tuned and un-tuned percussion. We will learn to use a staff and other musical notations.

**French:** We are really excited about our French lessons this term! We will continue to develop our French skills including building up vocabulary, understanding tense and being able to hold conversations about a range of topics including the 'Olympics' and 'The Romans'.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z39d7ty>

**P.E:** During our PE sessions, we will be taking part in athletics and football. There are two sessions a week

**Homework:** In year 5, homework for literacy is set on Education City and maths homework is set on My Maths every Thursday. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete their homework each week. The children **must read every day at home for at least 20 minutes**. They have a home reading record which needs to be completed daily by an adult at least once a week. We appreciate, that at this age, children may not read aloud to somebody at home. Please still encourage them to do so and monitor their interest in reading books. It helps to discuss the book's main theme and ask some questions about the story. Reading records will also be collected during the week to check if they are up-to-date. In year 5, children tend to read longer novels therefore they will not need to change their book each week. However, the length of time it takes a pupil to read one book will be monitored.

Finally, please ensure your child is in full school uniform each day and has the required PE kit, labelled with their name. This does include plimsolls and not trainers - children are not permitted to undertake the lesson wearing their school shoes. Girls who wear tights must also ensure they have socks for their games lessons. They will not be permitted to wear tights for the lesson. As the children are growing, they may need to take their P.E. kit home over the weekend for washing more regularly.

**Please read the school newsletter each week. Keep an eye out for significant dates such as trips and assemblies.**

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Nathan Phillipotts (Year 5 Elm Class Teacher)

Ms Rebeka Wheatley-Hunt (Year 5 Willow Class Teacher)