



Year 5 Merlins Newsletter – Spring 1

Welcome

Welcome to our Summer 1 newsletter! This half term is extremely exciting with lots of interesting topics. Below is a summary of what we will be covering in Year 5 this half term.

Reading

This term we will continue to have 3 whole class reading sessions each week, exploring a number of texts and genres. In particular, the children will be looking at extracts from authors such as Michael Morpurgo, Miriam Halahmy and Robert Westall.



We will continue to read our class novel 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell



Recommended reads:

- Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
- Lord of the Rings by J R R Tolkien
- Books about lifecycles

Writing

This term we will have two book studies: War Horse by Micheal Morpurgo and Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin.



The War Horse study will include creating a pamphlet, writing from a different viewpoint and writing a story.

The Darwin's Dragons study will include letter writing, writing a CV, a biography and debate.

Weekly spellings will be posted to Spelling Frame and a copy given for children to stick into their reading journal.

Maths

This terms units will include shape, position and direction and decimals.



We will also regularly recap our calculation skills to increase our confidence with arithmetic tasks.



Science



The focus for this half term will be 'Animals, including humans.' In this unit, children will begin by learning about the different stages of a human life cycle with a focus on the development of a foetus and milestones in babies and a young child. Through research, they will learn about the gestation periods of some animals.

Computing



In computing this term, the children will be learning to create and navigate databases. This will include entering data and searching information. There will also be a recap on how to stay safe online, which includes sharing digital content and maintaining secure passwords.

Design Technology



This term in Design Technology the focus is 'Cooking and nutrition.' Your children will explore where some of their food comes from, particularly for spaghetti Bolognese. They will use the term 'healthy' by unpicking nutritional values displayed on food labels and adapt recipes to make a healthy Bolognese sauce. Please note, your children will need a glass jar with a lid.

History



This term in history, we are learning about Ancient Greece. We will find out where and when the Ancient Greeks lived, the importance of the Greek gods, differences between Athens and Sparta, how Athenian democracy worked and the importance of Greek philosophers.

Music



This term, Miss Farmer (a specialist music teacher) will be teaching singing to Year 5. They will learn how to perform with confidence and accuracy, recognising musical notation and perform in different styles and genres. There will be opportunities for composing and potentially performing in a school assembly.

PE



PE this half term will be 'Netball' and 'Athletics'.

In netball, children will learn to pass and develop attacking techniques. They will learn to change direction in order to lose a defender, intercept and develop the shooting technique- all of which will be applied to games.

In athletics, they will develop speeds for running for different distances. This will then develop into relays and learning the changeovers before they then move onto learning how do the triple jump. Finally, they move onto throwing, developing force for throwing at a distance.

PE days this half term are Tuesday and Friday

Please remember to send your children in wearing the school PE kit on these days. Black hoodie and black trousers/joggers can be worn on top of the school PE kit. No bright colours, please!

PSHE



In PSHE this term the children will be learning about enterprise. This covers why people might want to save money, ways in which children can help out at home, learning to budget for items they would like to buy and recognising ways to make money and the early stages of enterprise. We will also discuss inclusion and acceptance. This will include identifying some of the ways in which we are different and unique, explaining some of the elements which help us to have a diverse community, and describing strategies to overcome barriers and promote diversity and inclusion.



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RE

Our RE unit is called Religions in our community: How can we build a more respectful Northamptonshire? We will be learning about the different religious communities found in Northamptonshire and different places of worship in the local area.



Enrichment

On **Thursday 18th May (2:40pm)**, parents are invited into school for a book look. This will give opportunities for the children to share some of their lovely learning with you.



Enrichment

Homework Project



You could:

- Choose an animal and find out about its growth from a baby.
- Find out about an Olympic athlete and create a poster to share in class.

Make spaghetti Bolognese for dinner and upload some pictures to ClassDojo.



Skills Builder

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities



Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude.



Class information

Class Teacher: Miss Gemma Peach

Supported by: Mrs Tracy Rosser

Reading journals must be returned to school each Friday, signed by an adult, so that we can see the children's progress with home learning. We encourage all children to read at least 4 times weekly, practise weekly spellings (tested each Thursday) and learn their times tables. Dojo points will be awarded for each day of home learning completed. Children who return their signed diary every



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week this half term, with at least 3 days of home learning completed, will be entered into a raffle to win a prize.

Please remember to name your child's school jumper or cardigan.

We request that all children bring a named water bottle to school every day and when the weather is warmer a sun hat and sun cream.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.

Dates for the diary!



Monday 17th April – Training Day

Tuesday 18th April – School opens at 7.45am for Summer Term

Friday 28th April – Year 1 Cake Sale

1st May – 31st May – KS1 SATs

Monday 1st May – Spring Bank Holiday – school closed

Monday 8th May – King's Coronation Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May – KS2 SATs

Friday 12th May – School Discos

Wednesday 24th May – Y6 Residential Information Meeting

Thursday 25th May – Y6 Takeover Day

Thursday 25th May – School closes for Half Term

Friday 26th May – Training Day – school closed

Monday 5th June – School opens for Summer Term 2