

Year 5 Spring 1 Newsletter



Welcome back to the Spring Term 2026! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind cards and gifts at Christmas time, they were greatly appreciated. We have a busy and exciting half-term planned now that the children are comfortable with the Year 5 routines and expectations. Can we please ask that students have the necessary equipment for lessons: one pencil case with the usual range of writing and recording materials, including a pencil and black pen, coloured pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a ruler.

Topic Vikings

Through our lessons our learning will focus on the following...

History – Understand the chronology of the Viking era. How do we know what information about the past to trust? What do the sources tell us about Viking life and are they reliable? Make comparisons between different times in the past and learn about different aspects of Viking life -food, trade, games, ships, homes. Viking beliefs surrounding afterlife and burial rituals compared to those of Ancient Egyptians. Look at the Jersey timeline and pinpoint when the Viking Era was in relation to other key events. Explain that Jersey has a distinct Viking heritage.



Geography – We will explore where Vikings came from, where they went and use our understanding of geography to reason why they may have done this. Identify key places such as York (Jorvik), The Isle of man (Tynwald) and explain their significance. Look at a map of Anglo-saxon kingdoms and compare to a map of modern counties. Use them to find key locations and symbols. Find out if the Vikings landed in St.Brelade today what would they find in given locations.

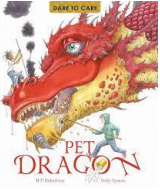
DT – The children will be designing and making masks depicting a Norse god. **To be able to do this, the children will need cardboard to build onto their masks. Please save any you get over the next couple of weeks!** The children will also be creating dragon's eyes from clay.

Science – Children will, compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties. They will find out that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution. They will use their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated. They will need to explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible. Children will need to give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests and find out which materials conduct heat? They will plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary - do all solids dissolve?

English - In writing, we will be focusing on the following two texts:



Arthur and the Golden Rope – A fantastic story about a bookish young adventurer who must find the courage to save his village and defeat the mighty beast Fenrir! The children will use this book to inspire their own narrative involving a key artefact, such as The Hand of Time, which serves as a tool to develop their stories plot.



Pet Dragon – A spectacular and fun spoof pet-care guide to dragons, with clear, concise information on everything from choosing an egg to feeding, grooming and training your dragon, plus spreads on taking your dragon to the vet and teaching it to fly! The children will study and explore this book before writing their own non-fiction text about looking after dragons.

Maths – This term we will be completing units on Fractions, Multiplication, Division, Area and Perimeter and Statistics. We will be using the White Rose materials to support our learning as well as a range of teaching and learning strategies.

For the children to work successfully through fractions, decimals and percentages it is vital that they have a secure grasp of their times tables and division facts. This should continue to be practised frequently in whatever method works for your child. Using Times Table Rockstars on a regular basis allows them this time to practise. We also recommend using this game as a means to revise: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>.

P.E. days are on Wednesdays and Thursdays

For next term the **Wednesday PE lesson** will focus on an engaging and dynamic unit of **Ballet dancing**. The lessons will build up to a final performance at the Opera House, whereby the children will perform and watch a performance from the Ballet D Jerri team. We are thrilled to announce that this special program will be led by professional dancer, **Helen Oliver**. Helen brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and this is a wonderful opportunity for the students to develop their coordination, strength, posture, and creative expression in a unique and inspiring environment.

On Thursdays, the children will be developing their netball skills with Mr Scurr.

RE – The children will learn that Jews are a diverse group of people by investigating Census data and reflecting on the different cultural heritages of British Jews. They will investigate the Torah through examining how a Sefer Torah is constructed, its place within the synagogue and how different Jews may interpret the Torah in diverse ways. They will consider how interpretation of Torah influences dietary choices. Finally, they will reflect on how Jewish practice is being adapted in the light of current thinking on gender and climate.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education) – Our focus this term is on **Belonging to a community; Protecting the environment; compassion towards others**. This will cover how resources are allocated and the effect this has on individuals, communities and the environment. The importance of protecting the environment and how everyday actions can either support or damage it. How to show compassion for the environment, animals and other living things *and* to express their own opinions about their responsibility towards the environment.

Music - In music this half term we will be continuing to follow the 'Charanga' scheme and will be focusing on modern music. Children will be learning the famous Adele song Make You Feel My Love.

Homework – This term we will continue to send home weekly spellings, reading and maths in a yellow data folder. Homework will continue to be set on a Monday, and the spelling test will also continue to be on a Monday.

Please can we ask that the children read for at least 20 minutes per evening. The children are regularly using Boom Reader in a guided reading session every week and should be encouraged to add books they are reading at home to this. The children still have access to TTRS and should use this to regularly practice times tables.

Diary Dates:

5A – Thursday 15 th January 5B – Friday 16 th February	Jersey Heritage Viking Workshop in School
10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February	Half Term
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 5 th and Friday 6 th March	Peer Mediation Training
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Saturday 21 st March	Down Syndrome Awareness Day
24 th and 26 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 26 th March	Swimarathon
Wednesday 1 st April	Last Day of Term

Useful Websites

Maths - <https://nrich.maths.org/> <https://completemaths.com/>

Spelling – www.rollama.com

Topic - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6/resources/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks1-english-viking-sagas/zkyqd6f>

We look forward to a busy and enjoyable half of the Spring Term.

Thank you for your continued support.