



Back To School CLASS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



Please contact Mr Bragg on the email address below if you have any questions regarding your child's Year 5 learning journey or on our Class Dojo page (within contact hours - 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Friday)

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Thank you for your continued support!

Autumn Term in Year 5

Our Curriculum

This term, our learning will be based around the key questions 'What is so special about North America and the USA?' and 'How can Ancient China influence the wider world?' With a range of activities across the curriculum supporting these topics. In our topic lessons, we will be focusing on developing the children's geography and history skills, which will involve developing an understanding of both physical and human geographical features, locating specific countries in the world and exploring the impact ancient civilisations have had on the world we live in today. In addition to this, we are going to be exploring the Earth and Space, as well as forces in science this term. Children will be developing their understanding of many abstract concepts and processes, which impact our everyday lives and the world around us.

In our literacy lessons this term, we will be exploring the following texts 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterly, which tells the true story of four black women and their role in the space race in 1969 and 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. These texts will explore very real issues and thought provoking themes, they will also form the stimulus for a many writing opportunities, which will be carefully planned to enable to children to consolidate existing skills and grow further skills required to succeed during Year 5.

Empowering Learning

This half term, we're learning to be successful 'self-managers' and 'Team Workers.' We're aiming to develop the children's resilience, independence and team work skills, so that are able to keep trying and experience success even when learning becomes more difficult. We are also learning to respect the views of others, even when they are different from our own, as well as, working on managing our emotions so that we are more prepared and able to learn, which, in turn, will help us to understand how we learn best and regulating ourselves with greater independence!

Reading

The skill of reading is an essential part of learning for all children. Developing a confidence and enjoyment when reading will support children to improve their understanding and make greater and sustained progress with their learning across all subject areas. We will actively promote reading and our aim is for all children in Year 5 to enjoy reading for pleasure and spend increasing amounts of time reading.

We expect all children to read at home at least 5 times per week and their reading records will be each day to ensure they have been reading regularly.

Children in Year 5 will be required to bring their reading books and reading records to class with them each day and are expected to complete an 'Accelerated Reader' quiz and change these books at least once per week. The purpose of the 'Accelerated Reader' books and corresponding quizzes are to improve the children's comprehension skills, whereas their scheme books are to develop fluency when reading allowed.

By the end of Year 5, we hope that all of the children are reading at a level, which allows them to become a free reader.

We do have a number of reward systems in class and across school to promote the importance of reading and celebrate the children's achievements. Each time the children change a book they will get a punch on their punch card and move up on our class reading race, where prizes will be awarded periodically. We will also celebrate the children, who achieve 'Strive for Five' in Year 5, at the end of each week, in addition, to our whole school half termly celebrations.

Reminders

PE days - This half term, we will take part in PE lessons on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. On Wednesday children are going to be working with a visiting sports coach to overall fitness and core skills and on Friday they are going to be using their catching, throwing and teamwork skills to master the sport of benchball. They will be focusing on developing transferable skill that they will be able to apply in a range of different contexts throughout Year 5.

Please send your child to school in their full PE kits and appropriate footwear on these days. Any jewellery must be removed or covered before coming to school too for safety reasons and long hair must be tied up. Please see our school website to view our uniform (including PE kits) policy.

Snack - Snack for the half term will be £7.60 per child. This is payable daily (20p per day), weekly (£1 per week) or it can be paid in full at the beginning of the half term. Please send all money into school in labelled envelopes. A wide range of snacks will be available each day.

Lining up - Please ensure children are lined up on the playground (next to the bike shed) for 8:45am each morning. Also, encourage their independence with this as they are in KS2 and refrain from standing with them or crowding around the gate or entrance door upon arrival.

Inhalers - If your child has asthma, please ensure your child has an in-date inhaler and up-to-date asthma plan (signed by the GP) in school.

Dinners - Please remember to pre-order children's school dinners via scopay each day. For support with this, contact the school office. If your child is on packed lunches, please ensure all products are **banana and nut free** due to confirmed allergies in school. Please try to order dinners alongside your child at home to ensure that they like what has been ordered for them.

Uniform - Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct Distington Community School uniform with an appropriate jacket for break and lunch times. All uniform must be labelled with your child's name to prevent any mix-ups or anything going missing.

Homework

To support children with their learning and provide additional opportunities for them to practise and consolidate what they have been learning in class they will be receiving a small amount of homework each week.

Our weekly spelling will be shared on Class Dojo each week for the children to practise at home. They will also be bringing a green homework book home with them each week, inside will be some weekly times table homework and from time to time an additional Maths or English activity, which will allow children to further progress their understanding and confidence.

Homework books will usually be handed out on **Mondays** and must be returned to school on **Thursdays** each week.

Keep up to date!

Please regularly check our class and school Dojo pages for updates on your child's learning/education. Key dates and reminders will also be set on Class Dojo.

Further information about our class activities, curriculum and school life can be found on Earwig and our brand new school website, which includes our Year 5 class webpage, (which is currently being updated.)

Don't forget to check them out!