

# Back To School

## CLASS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 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)

[s.bragg@distington-comm.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:s.bragg@distington-comm.cumbria.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support!

### Summer Term in Year 5

#### Our Curriculum

This term, our learning will be based around the key questions 'Why should the rainforests be important to us all?' and 'What was the impact of World War 2 on Britain?' With activities across the curriculum supporting these.

In our topic lessons, we will be focusing on developing the children's history and geography skills, which will involve exploring a period of recent British history, understanding the role of and importance of Britain during World War 2; as well as, understanding the importance of the worlds rainforests, their impact on biodiversity and climate change and the negative affects of deforestation. In addition to this, we are going to be exploring the properties of materials, animal's including humans and living things in science. Children will engage with a wide range of activities and carry out investigations to develop their understanding of many different scientific concepts, which will help them to understand the world around them.

In our literacy lessons, we will be exploring the following texts 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'Resist' by Tom Palmer. These texts will explore many themes and will form the stimulus for a number of writing opportunities, which will be carefully planned to enable to children to consolidate existing skills and grow further skills required as they transition into Year 6 at the end of the term.

#### Empowering Learning

This term, we will be 'Reflective learners' and 'Independent enquirers,' as we continue to develop the children's individual learning behaviours. The aim is to build the children's resilience levels, so that they can confidently keep trying even if they find tasks difficult. There will be an emphasis on encouraging the children to regularly look back over their work to reflect on what they have done with the aim of improving their responses. Additionally, the children will be working to draw successfully upon prior learning to become more independent when developing their responses. This in turn, will help us to understand how we learn best, regulating ourselves with greater independence!

#### Reading

The skill of reading is an essential part of learning for all children. Developing a confidence and enjoyments when reading will support children to improve their understanding and their learning across all subject areas. We will actively promote reading and our aim is for all children to enjoy reading for pleasure.

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

Children in Year 5 will be required to bring their reading books and reading records to school each day and are expected to change their 'Accelerated Reader' reading books at least once per week. By the end of Year 5, we hope that all of the children are on 'Free Reading' books.

Now that children are in Year 5 we are aware that they can read independently, particularly children who are on 'Free Reader' and they are able to fill in their own reading records; however, it is still expected that parents do listen to their children read every so often and that their reading records are signed.

We do have a number of reward systems in class and across the school to promote the importance of reading and celebrate the children's achievements.

### Reminders

**PE days** - This half term, we will take part in PE lessons on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. We are going to be focusing on badminton (net and wall games) and tag rugby (invasion games) over the next few weeks and the children will be focusing on developing the skills required to improve their performance in these areas. Children will also learn about the tactics required and will have the opportunity to apply both their learnt skills and tactics within a range of game situations. Please send your child to school in their full PE kits on these days with appropriate footwear. Any jewellery must be removed or covered before coming to school too. Please see our whole-school DOJO or school website for further information about our uniform (including PE kits) policy.

**Snack** - Snack for the half term is £6.00 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.

**Lining up** - Please ensure children are lined up on the playground (next to the bike shed) for 8:45am each morning. Please encourage their independence with this and refrain from standing with them or crowding around the 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. For support with this, contact the school office. If your child is on packed lunches, please ensure all products are **banana and nut free** as we have confirmed allergies in school. Please try to order dinners alongside your child at home to ensure 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 the children with their learning they will receive weekly times tables (green book) and regular spelling (shared on Class Dojo) homework. This is to provide children with additional opportunities to practice and embed their learning. Times table books **must** be returned to school on **Friday** each week so that individual testing can take place. Informal spelling tests will take place as stated on Class Dojo. In addition to this, children continue to have access to Times Table Rockstars and Ed Shed, so that they can engage with games online to improve their learning. We encourage children to access these platforms regularly.

### 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!