

Year 5 Newsletter - Spring Term 1

Maya Civilisation



In Maths this half term, we will build on our knowledge of multiplication and division, learning written methods to solve 4-digit by 1-digit questions and 4-digit by 2-digit questions. Additionally, we will learn how to divide larger numbers using the bus stop method, including working with remainders. We will also secure our understanding of fractions, focusing on equivalence, ordering, adding and subtracting fractions, as well as working with mixed numbers and improper fractions.

In English, we will read *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright*, a physics- and space-themed novel that will prepare us for our upcoming scientific unit on Space.

In RE, we will focus on Sikh beliefs and moral values. Our key question is: Are Sikh stories important today? This will involve reading Sikh stories and exploring their morals, as well as examining the history of the Khalsa. This includes learning about the Amrit ceremony, the formation of the Khalsa, and offering advice to those who may question whether they are ready to make that commitment.

As Scientists, we will begin with an exciting unit on Space, exploring the planets in our solar system, understanding how the moon changes over a lunar month, and learning about the causes of night, day, and the changing seasons. Following this, we will start our exciting unit 'Animals Including Humans', where we will study the human lifecycle and compare human lifespans to those of animals.

In History, we will learn about the Maya Civilisation, exploring where they lived, significant events in their history, key inventions, and examining what happened to their city-states.

As part of our Geography focus, we will practise using 4- and 6-figure grid references to develop our map skills, using maps (such as those with contour lines) to examine land around the country, including our local area.

We will also continue our Philosophical thinking (P4C) this half term, using a range of stimuli to guide us in creating our own questions for class discussions. This will help deepen our thinking skills and build confidence in sharing ideas and understanding everyday concepts.

Ideas for home learning:

- Find out about Mexican wildlife and flora.
- Research Maya hieroglyphs and symbols, then write your own short message to a friend.
- Research songs related to Mexico.
- Visit a supermarket and find foods imported from Mexico.
- Design and build your own Mayan temple using recyclable materials.
- Make and decorate a Mexican skull.

For homework, children will receive a weekly English comprehension, spellings, and a Maths slip. We expect all children to continue using TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) and to read - either independently or with an adult - for at least 15 minutes each day.

PE will continue for Year 5 on Wednesdays, and swimming lessons will remain on Monday mornings.

We are very much looking forward to the Spring 1 half term. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ask!

Miss Dooley and the Year 5 Team. 😊