Highwood Primary School

Promoting Resilience - Achieving Potential

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter- Autumn 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Highwood, we hope you had a good summer. We are delighted to share with you the content of the Year 5 curriculum for this half term. We hope that this gives you a window into your child's learning and enables you to have conversations with your child about what is happening in school.

If you require further detail about what skills and knowledge will be taught in each subject, please have a look at the curriculum page on our school website. If you have any questions about our curriculum, or any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We are also excited to begin our new units of work and our trip to the STEM centre in Stevenage, more details to follow.

On Tuesday 15th September at 08:55am until 09:25am there will be a welcome to Year 5 meeting with us, where further information will be given about Year 5. We look forward to seeing you then.

Many thanks,

Mrs Keith and Mr Goodenough

English





This half term the children will be reading these key texts:







They will be producing the following pieces of written work linked to the key texts:

Narrative and non-chronological reports.



The children will continue to use Spelling Shed this term to learn to spell the following:

- Words ending –TIOUS AND –IOUS
- Words ending –CIOUS
- Words ending – CIAL
- Words ending –TIAL
- Challenge words
- Words ending -ANT

Complete the activities using the link below- www.spellingshed.com

Maths



- Place value
- Decimals
- Negative numbers
- Numbers past 1,000

Science: Earth & Space



To describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.

- Describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth.
- Describe the Sun, Earth, and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.
- Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

Reminders

<u>PE lessons</u> are on a Tuesday for Poplar and on a Friday for Willow.
Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE Kit. Also, long hair must be tied back, and no earrings should be worn on PE day.

<u>Forest School</u>
Poplar – Monday
Willow - Tuesday
We will be outside whatever the weather, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately.

<u>Library</u>
Willow - Wednesday
Poplar – Thursday

<u>Reading records</u>
To be handed in on a Monday to be monitored.

Home Learning



Home Learning booklet hand in on Monday and returned to the children on Wednesday.

Please see home learning grid for further details.

Daily Home Learning

- Daily reading/sharing stories and complete reading records.
- Learn spellings for daily lessons linked to Spelling Shed.
- Times Tables Rock stars.

History – Ancient Greece

The children will be taught key knowledge and skills to help them answer our Big Question:

What was the impact of Ancient Greeks on modern society?

Year 5 will be learning about the Ancient Greek civilisation, democracy, key historical figures and battles, the origin on the Olympic games and the lasting impact that this had.





Art

Big Piece – Space Art inspired by Peter Thorpe.

We will be learning about the artist Peter Thorpe, and the children will be creating a big piece inspired by his Space art, linked to our science learning.



PE

In our PE lessons we will be learning the following key skills when participating in a variety of activities:

- To accept critical feedback and make changes.
- To see all new challenges as opportunities to learn and develop.
- To cope well and react positively when things become difficult.
- To persevere with a task and improve performance through regular practice.

RE

The children will be learning about Christianity & Judaism this year. This half term they will be exploring what it means to live as a Jew in Britain today, considering internal diversity to help answer our Big Question:

Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children?

P.S.H.E- 'Being Me in My World'



This half term, the children will explore rights, responsibilities, citizenship, privilege, and fairness.

The children will identify how they can set personal goals, understand rights and responsibilities as a citizen and member of the school. They will also learn how their actions can affect themselves and others.

Computing

We will be learning about programming using the software Scratch. We will be creating our own interactive quizzes about the Ancient Greeks.

As part of our e-safety learning we will focus on what personal information we can and should not share online, and cyberbullying.

Music

This half-term, we will learn all about syncopation (accentuating the offbeat). We will listen to different pieces of music using syncopation, both in folk songs from around the world and in modern pop songs. We will play along using (body) percussion and will use box notation to visualise syncopated rhythms. Throughout, we will play a variety of rhythm games and eventually play ostinatos in groups to begin to create polyrhythms.

Spanish

We are very excited to be introducing Spanish at Highwood this term. We will be starting with simple greetings and introducing ourselves in Spanish. We will also be describing ourselves and others using a range of adjectives and the verb *estar*. We will be looking at simple vowel sounds in Spanish to aid our understanding of how Spanish is a phonetic language ie spelling and sounds are directly related. All this will be done using songs, games and rhymes. Hasta pronto!