



**Welcome back Year 5!**

Welcome back after the half-term break. We hope you had a restful week and are ready for the term ahead. This half term, our learning will focus on the Amazon Rainforest, explored across the curriculum in a range of engaging ways. We are all looking forward to another exciting and productive half term in Year 5.

**Mr Price and the Y5 team**

**English**

We will explore the theme Amazon Adventure through fiction, persuasive writing and poetry. We will read and analyse *Journey to the River Sea* and use it as inspiration to write descriptive settings, develop characterisation and use dialogue effectively. We will also write persuasive pieces about protecting the rainforest and create poetry inspired by rainforest imagery and sounds.

**Maths**

We will continue developing our understanding of fractions, including converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, finding equivalent fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions. We will then move on to geometry (2-D and 3-D shapes and nets), measurement including volume, statistics, and problem solving using bar modelling, while continuing to practise arithmetic skills and times tables daily.

**Science**

Living things and their habitats

We will learn about living things and their habitats, describing the differences in the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds and learning about the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

**Guided Reading**

All children will continue daily Guided Reading, including pre-reading, guided reading, follow-up activities, reading journals and reading for pleasure. We will also continue ERIC time after lunch and make regular use of the school library, supported by our trained Year 5 librarians.

Thank you for supporting reading at home as much as possible.

**Geography**

In Geography, we will focus on South America, locating countries and capital cities using maps and atlases and learning about the Amazon Rainforest, the Andes mountains, climate, biodiversity, trade and deforestation. We will compare human and physical geography in South America with the UK and explore how people can protect rainforest environments through sustainable choices.

**Art**

We will use our Rainforest topic in Geography as inspiration to develop our drawing skills, exploring line, texture, pattern and composition. We will study the work of Henri Rousseau, analysing how artists create depth and atmosphere in jungle scenes, before planning, refining and creating our own rainforest artwork.

**PE: taught by Mr Ridge (Wed)**

We will develop our skills in Hockey and Rugby, focusing on teamwork, movement, control and game awareness.

On Wednesdays, pupils are to come to school in full PE kit.

**Music: taught by Mr Baines (Tues)**

We will continue our Rock Band sessions, working in small groups to develop performance skills, teamwork and confidence through playing together.

**Computing: taught by Mrs Ahmed (Tues)**

Data and Information — Flat-file databases

This half term, we will learn how to use databases to organise, sort and search data, create charts to present information and apply our skills in a real-life database scenario.

**RE: taught by Mrs Ahmed (Tues)**

Christianity: What do we mean by a miracle?

We will explore stories of Jesus' miracles, discussing what these stories might mean for Christians and reflecting on different viewpoints.

**French**

Je me présente (presenting myself)

We will learn vocabulary to describe what we are wearing, revisit colour adjectives and build simple spoken and written sentences while developing the confidence to present personal information in French.

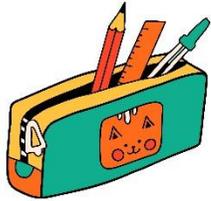
**PSHE: taught by Mrs Ahmed (Tues)**

Relate

We will focus on building positive relationships, communication and recognising similarities and differences using the My Happy Mind programme.

# Reminders

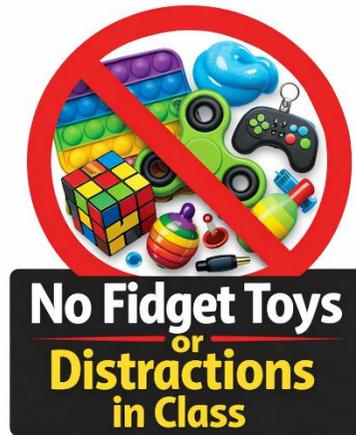
## Pencil Cases



School equipment will be provided, but Year 5 pupils may bring their own small pencil case that fits in their tray. It should hold essentials (pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener).

Pupils are also welcome to bring their own coloured pencils and felt tips. We provide handwriting pens for book work, but children can use their own pens for morning tasks or informal work.

## No fidget toys or distractions in class



To help the children get the most out of their lessons, we're keeping the classroom a distraction-free zone. **Please ensure that fidget toys and personal items aren't brought into school;** this includes Show and Tell, as we want to keep those sessions focused on special news rather than just toys. If items are brought in, I'll hold onto them for safekeeping until home time. Thank you for helping your child arrive ready to focus.

## Reading at Home



50 Recommended Reads for...

**Year 5** (ages 9-10)



To support reading at home, I have printed two helpful book recommendation resources over the page.

This carefully curated booklist has been selected by teachers, librarians and children's literature specialists, offering a wide range of high-quality fiction and non-fiction to inspire 9–10-year-olds.

The [poster](#) provides a visual overview of recommended books, while the [checklist](#) allows children to track what they have read and set themselves new reading goals.

## Homework

A half-termly **Homework Menu** has been sent home with this newsletter and is available on our class page on the school website. Children should aim to complete two pieces each week. Paper can be provided if needed.

## Spelling

This year, we will use [SpellingFrame](#) for weekly spellings, with paper copies also sent home. Login details can be found in reading records. **New spellings are set every Wednesday, with spelling tests taking place the following Wednesday.**

## PE: Wednesdays

On Wednesdays, all pupils must wear their PE kits.

Children will need:

- a plain white T-shirt
- plain navy shorts
- trainers or pumps
- a plain navy or black tracksuit (or the Harris logo tracksuit) for colder weather.

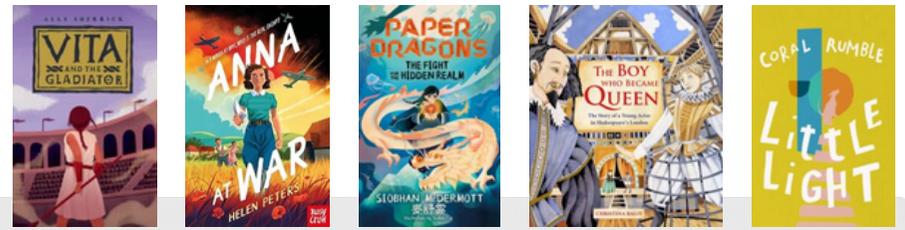
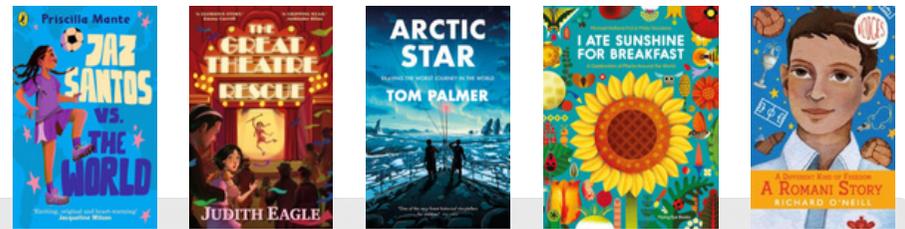
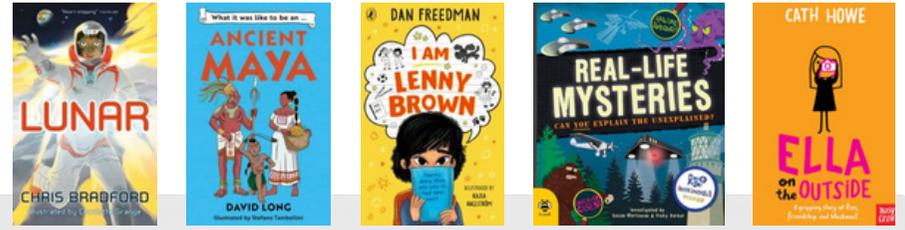
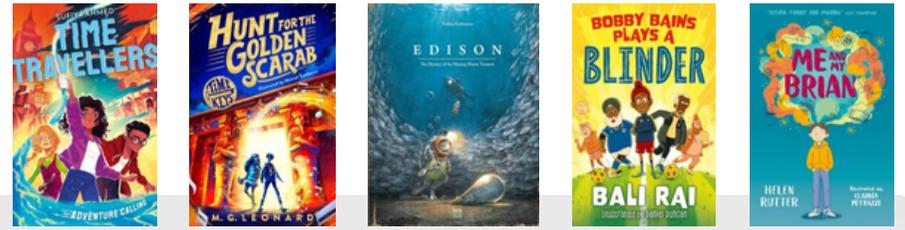
Thank you for your support in ensuring children are always prepared for PE.



50 Recommended Reads for...

# Year 5 (ages 9-10)

2025-2026 Booklist



Or visit [www.booksfortopics.com/year-5](http://www.booksfortopics.com/year-5) to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)





50 Recommended Reads for...

# Year 5 (ages 9-10)

Which ones have you read?

## Favourite Storytime Books

-  **The House with Chicken Legs**  
Sophie Anderson, Melissa Castrillon & Elisa Paganelli
-  **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase**  
Joan Aiken
-  **Crookhaven: The School for Thieves**  
J.J. Arcanjo

## Funny Books

-  **The Beast and the Bethany**  
Jack Meggitt-Phillips & Isabelle Follath
-  **Dexter Procter the 10-Year-Old Doctor**  
Adam Kay & Henry Paker
-  **Speedwheels 3000: The Race Against Crime**  
Jenny Pearson & Katie Kear
-  **Nina Peanut is Amazing**  
Sarah Bowie

## Fantasy, Myths and Magic

-  **Impossible Creatures**  
Katherine Rundell
-  **Pinch Perkins and the Midsummer Curse**  
Cathy FitzGerald
-  **Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief**  
Rick Riordan
-  **She Speaks**  
Honor Cargill-Martin & Camelia Pham

## Animal Books

-  **Paws**  
Kate Foster
-  **The Last Bear**  
Hannah Gold & Levi Pinfold
-  **Calling the Whales**  
Jasbinder Bilan & Skylar White
-  **Hamza's Wild World**  
Hamza Yassin & Louise Forshaw
-  **Queens of the Jungle**  
Carly Anne York & Kimberlie Clinthorne-Wong

## Mystery Books

-  **The Case of the Lighthouse Intruder**  
Kereen Getten & Leah Jacobs-Gordon
-  **The Mizzy Mysteries: A Skeleton in the Closet**  
Claire Hatcher-Smith
-  **Real-Life Mysteries**  
Susan Martineau

## Graphic Novels

-  **Frankie's World**  
Aoife Dooley
-  **El Deafo**  
Cece Bell
-  **Roller Girl**  
Victoria Jamieson

## Adventures Around the World

-  **Land of the Last Wildcat**  
Lui Sit & David Dean
-  **Ghostlines**  
Katya Balen
-  **Brightstorm**  
Vashti Hardy
-  **The Time Travellers: Adventure Calling**  
Sufiya Ahmed & Alessia Trunfio
-  **Hunt for the Golden Scarab**  
M. G. Leonard & Manuel Sumberac
-  **Paper Dragons**  
Siobhan McDermott

## Shorter Reads

-  **Bobby Bains Plays a Blinder**  
Bali Rai & Daniel Duncan
-  **Me and My Brian**  
Helen Rutter & Claudia Petrazzi
-  **Lunar**  
Chris Bradford & Charlotte Grange
-  **What it Was Like to be an Ancient Maya**  
David Long & Stefano Tambellini

## True-to-Life Stories

-  **I am Lenny Brown**  
Dan Freedman & Kajsa Hallstrom
-  **My Name is Sunshine Simpson**  
G. M. Linton & Fuuji Takashi
-  **Ella on the Outside**  
Cath Howe
-  **Jaz Santos vs the World**  
Priscilla Mante

## Historical Fiction

-  **The Great Theatre Rescue**  
Judith Eagle
-  **Arctic Star**  
Tom Palmer
-  **Secrets of a Sun King**  
Emma Carroll
-  **A Different Kind of Freedom: a Romani Story**  
Richard O'Neill
-  **Vita and the Gladiator**  
Ally Sherrick
-  **Anna at War**  
Helen Peters

## Picturebooks

-  **Edison**  
Torben Kuhlmann
-  **The Boy Who Became Queen**  
Christina Balit

## Poetry

-  **Little Light**  
Coral Rumble
-  **Our Earth is a Poem**  
Various Poets & Various Illustrators

## Non-Fiction Books

-  **Robots**  
Dr Henry Admoni, Neon Squid & Amy Grimes
-  **I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast**  
Michael Holland & Philip Giordano
-  **Stones and Bones**  
Rob Wilsher & Sophie Williams
-  **How to Spaghetotify Your Dog**  
Hiba Noor Khan & Harry Woodgate



SCAN ME

Or visit [www.booksfortopics.com/year-5](http://www.booksfortopics.com/year-5)  
to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)