HARRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Be Kind • Be Thankful • Be Ambitious

YEAR 5 NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2 2026

Welcome back Year 5!

I hope you all had a wonderful and well-earned rest over the half-term break. We're diving into an exciting and busy term ahead! This half term, we'll be exploring some fascinating new topics, including **the Maya**, preparing for **our upcoming class assembly**, and of course, getting ready for **the festive season** that's fast approaching. Below, you'll find an overview of some of the key areas we'll be covering during **Autumn Term 2**.

English

Our theme for this half term is **Food, Glorious Food!** We'll begin by exploring stories with historical settings, focusing mainly on *Oliver Twist*. Towards the end of the term, we'll turn our attention to play scripts, film scripts, and poetry, allowing pupils to develop their creative and performance skills.

Maths

This half term, we'll start by working on multiplication and division before moving on to fractions, decimals and percentages. We'll also be learning how to calculate area and apply our multiplication knowledge to real-life contexts. In addition, we'll be exploring time, particularly through timetables and problem-solving activities.

Science

How can we test material properties?
In Science, we'll be investigating a variety of materials and their properties, exploring different ways to test their suitability for specific purposes. Expect some fun and practical experiments, perhaps even finding out whether a chocolate teapot could really work!

Guided Reading

All children take part in daily Guided Reading sessions that include Pre-Read, Guided Read, Follow-Up, Reading Journal and Reading for Pleasure activities. After lunch, we enjoy 10 minutes of reading for pleasure during ERIC time (Everyone Reads In Class). We make use of our lovely new School Library, and all Year 5 pupils have been trained by a Lancashire Librarian to become Harris' official school librarians.

History

The Maya
This half term we will explore the fascinating Maya civilisation, learning about where and when they lived, their daily life, culture, achievements, unique ball game and the origins of chocolate. To link with our History topic, we will make a traditional Mayan chocolate drink that is thick, bitter, frothy and mixed with chilli – literally hot chocolate! Yummy? We'll see! We will also enjoy a Maya Outreach Workshop on Monday 27th November.

DT taught by Mrs Ahmed

In Design and Technology, we'll be linking our work to our History topic on the Maya. The children will research Mayan worry dolls and design and create their own versions, developing their sewing and creative skills.
If you have any spare fabric or materials that could be donated for this project, they would be greatly appreciated!

PE: taught by Mr Ridge (Wed)

This half term: Net and Wall (badminton) and Gymnastics.

Please send your child in full PE kit. Earrings must be removed or taped for safety.

Music: taught by Mr Baines

We Jammin' (Reggae) We will learn to play the keyboard, sing in parts, explore Reggae's history, improvise melodies and perform with growing musical skill and confidence.

Computing: taught by Mrs Ahmed

We will be learning how to plan, film and edit our own short videos, developing skills in storyboarding, camera techniques and video editing to bring our creative ideas to life.

RE: taught by Mrs Ahmed

Christianity: How do people decide what to believe?

We will find out how Christian beliefs and teachings in the Apostle's Creed and the Trinity unite the world-wide Church, while exploring the diversity within Christianity and considering the importance of respectful difference and unity in diversity in modern Britain.

French taught by Mrs Ahmed

La Date
Days of the week, months of the year and numbers 1-31 will be introduced, revised and consolidated so, by the end of this unit, we will have the knowledge and skills to say the date and when our birthday is in French.

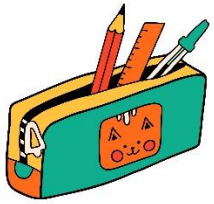
PSHE: taught by Mrs Ahmed

Celebrate

Using My Happy Mind, we will be learning about our Character Strengths, exploring what makes each of us unique and how recognising and using these strengths can help us be our best selves every day.

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.

Y5 Showcase Assembly



Thursday 19th November 9:15am

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our **Showcase Assembly** where we will be **celebrating poetry** and sharing some of what we have been doing so far this year. We hope you can join us for this special event!

Reading at Home





Children are expected to read every night as regular reading builds fluency, understanding and a love of books. They should bring their Home Reader to school each day for daily reading sessions.

If your child is a **reluctant reader**, this carefully curated **Year 5 reading list** is perfect. Chosen by teachers, librarians, and authors, it offers fiction and non-fiction titles to inspire 9- to 10-year-olds. It's an ideal guide for gifts.
Click here: Year 5 reading list for children aged 9-10 | School Reading List

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 are using SpellingFrame for all weekly spellings (physical copies of the spellings will also be sent home each week). Pupil login details can be found inside their home reading record. Using Spelling Frame helps children to practise in a fun and interactive way, reinforces patterns and rules and supports improved accuracy and confidence in their writing.

PE: Wednesdays

On Thursdays, 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.