



"Reading gives us someplace
to go when we have to stay
where we are."
– Mason Cooley



"Reading is dreaming with
open eyes."
– Unknown



Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School
WE BELIEVE, WE NURTURE, WE SUCCEED!

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

- This newsletter will give you an overview of the learning for your child this term.
- Tuesdays are Mrs Wilde's release time and Mrs Nicoll will teach every Tuesday all day.
- If you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail, please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Wilde or Mrs Nicoll.

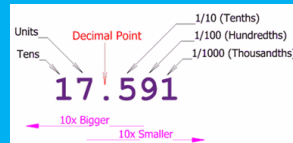
Autumn Term 2026

English

We will be following our English curriculum map developed specifically for our school with Grammarsaurus. There is an updated copy attached with this newsletter and a copy of our grammar and writing overview. We will start the year off by reading the excellent book, *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. This text will be used as part of our whole class guided reading and to write a set of instructions. Following on from this we will have a poetry focus where we will study 3 different types of poems. After the half term, we will be studying model texts involving setting descriptions and non-chronological reports. These will tie in beautifully with our rainforest and Mayan topics.

Your child will continue to be taught a specific set spellings every 3 weeks. The spellings chosen fit the texts studied so that they have more meaning. Children will receive a hard copy in the form of a bookmark to take home should parents wish to support the practice of these.

Mathematics



As a school we use the White Rose Maths scheme. This scheme is designed to support a mastery approach to teaching and learning, as well as support the aims and objectives of the National Curriculum. The White Rose scheme has number at the heart and a lot of time is spent reinforcing number to build competency. It also provides opportunities to build reasoning and problem solving into each lesson. The children will be able to build on their abilities by following a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach where necessary (CPA).

Concrete: using concrete (real) objects and manipulatives to help them understand and explain what they are doing.

Pictorial: building upon the concrete approach by using pictorial representations, which can then be used to reason and solve problems.

Abstract: with the foundations firmly laid, children can move to an abstract approach using numbers and key concepts with confidence.

With this newsletter is a copy of our long term plan and a break down of the learning we will be covering this Autumn Term in small steps.

PSHE

During the first half term, we will explore how our bodies and minds change as we grow, including physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Pupils will learn about managing feelings, building confidence and understanding change in a positive way.



In the second half of the Autumn term, we will focus on identity, exploring what makes each person unique. Children will learn about the different factors that shape who we are, while developing respect for diversity and celebrating individuality.



Mrs Wilde teaches on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. During these days, in addition to English & Maths, the children will take part in Science, Computing, outdoor and indoor PE, RE, Spanish, History & Geography lessons. Mrs Nicoll teaches on Tuesdays. She will be in charge of teaching the children Music, PSHE and ART/DT as well as English and Maths. PSHE, Music & Art/DT may be taught in blocks.



Homework

As shared in our recent communication, homework will be talking homework only and will be posted on Class Dojo each Wednesday. There is no expectation for children to produce or upload anything. Instead, we hope this provides an opportunity to enjoy talking together about your child's learning, their school day and their interests. TTRockstars and Arithmagicians accounts are also active for optional practice at home, and we will continue to use these regularly in school.



Reading

Children are welcome to bring books from home or borrow from our class library, which is refreshed each half-term to keep reading exciting and varied. Reading every day is really important, as it helps to build vocabulary, imagination, fluency and understanding of the wider world. Please encourage your child to read at home each day, even if only for 10 minutes.

In school, children will have regular independent reading time as well as Social Reading, usually on Fridays. During this time, they can bring in their own reading material to share and enjoy with others, including books, magazines, annuals and non-fiction texts.

Science

This half term, the children will be learning about forces. They will explore how gravity pulls objects towards the Earth, investigate the effects of air and water resistance as well as friction, and find out how mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears make work easier. Through practical activities, they will see how these forces affect the world around them.

Autumn 2, the children will be exploring materials and their properties. They will compare everyday materials based on features such as hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity and magnetism. They will investigate how some materials dissolve, how mixtures can be separated by filtering, sieving or evaporation, and how changes can be reversible or irreversible.

Using experiments and evidence, the children will also learn why certain materials are chosen for particular uses in daily life.



Religious Education

This term we will be following the Understanding Christianity scheme (Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education in the Diocese of Leeds and York) and have started with What does it mean for a Jewish person to follow God? And after the half term our focus is Was Jesus the Messiah?



Computing

In ICT this first half term we will focus on E-Safety. The children will learn how to: use search technologies effectively, evaluate digital content, use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly, and explore different ways to report concerns online.

Autumn 2, the children will be using the program Scratch. They will use the context of game design to develop their coding skills, creating their own games while learning about conditionals (if/then rules), data, repetition and step-by-step improvement.

History / Geography

For the first half term our topic is a Geography focus, with the challenge question, "Why should the Rainforests be important to us all?" Many cross curricular links will be made through our topic of the Rainforest, including informing our writing and living things and their habitats in science. We will cover many of our Geography objectives, including issues impacting on the environment and key topographical features .

After the half term it is History and the 'Mysterious Mayans'. We will be learning about this Ancient civilization from central America and therefore be covering both History and Geography objectives, with a stronger focus on history including analysing sources of evidence. This focus on a non-European society will enable the children to make comparisons with British history later on this year.



Art /Design Technology

In Art/DT this term we will be studying painting and mixed media, specifically portraits. The children will have the opportunity to create portrait drawings using words, materials and techniques. In Autumn 2 we will be exploring electrical systems in DT. We will start to understand how motors are used in electrical products.



Physical Education

Indoor PE is Wednesday and we are focusing on fitness before half term and dance after the holiday. Outdoor PE is on Thursdays and the children will be developing their problem solving in our outdoor and adventurous topic from our Get set 4 PE scheme. On both these days, the children are to come in school PE kits.

Our Sports Coach Stanley will be with us for another year, who will help support the teaching and learning of PE as well as provide focused sporting activities at lunchtime.

Please make sure your child is wearing the correct kit in school: PE is a statutory requirement. If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please come and speak to us.

Jewellery must be removed for PE including earrings. If earrings are unable to be removed, they must be protected by tape or plasters.



Music

For music we will be using a scheme called Charanga. During Autumn 1, we will be using Bon Jovi's Living on a prayer to develop our music skills followed by exploring jazz in Autumn 2.



MFL

In Year 5 we focus solely on Spanish. Autumn term 1 we will begin with Welcome to School, revisiting greetings, numbers, days and months, and learning school vocabulary. We will then explore My Town, Your Town, learning vocabulary for places and shops and how to ask where things are.

