

Key Dates for Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January - School Opens - Spring Term 1
Friday 9th January - INSET day (staff only)
Tuesday 20th January - EAL coffee morning
Friday 23rd January - PTA Quiz night
Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
Thursday 12th February - Valentines Disco
Friday 13th February - School closes for half term at 3.15pm

Monday 23rd February- INSET day (staff only)
Tuesday 24th February - School Opens - Spring term 2
Friday 27th Feb - Midterm Reports out and books go home
Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th March- Parents Evening
Thursday 5th March- World Book Day

Snacks

In Year 5, we sometimes don't eat lunch until 12:50, meaning the children are often quite hungry by then. Please send your child in with a snack to have during morning break to help with this—especially on Tuesdays as we have swimming! Snacks should be healthy, e.g, fruit or a cereal bar.

Please also ensure your child has a drink in school. This should be in a named bottle and should contain water (no juice) for in the classroom. Children with packed lunches are able to bring an additional drink of juice to have at lunch time.

Bee Rules

We have been working hard to follow our "Bee" rules and lots of our Star of the Week certificates have been awarded to children who we have seen demonstrating these rules in a range of different ways.

1. Be kind
2. Be a good listener
3. Be hardworking
4. Be respectful
5. Be responsible



Lost Property

We amass a staggering collection of lost items of uniform around school; please ensure that everything your child wears to school is clearly labelled with their name. This means that, when items are mislaid, they can swiftly be reunited with their owners!



**Half the World Away
Year 5
Spring Term 2026**

**5L
Miss LeCouteur**

**5KC
Mrs Kay and Mrs Chappell**

**Teaching Assistants
Mrs Lund, Mr Johnson, Miss North**

Happy New Year!

Welcome back, Year 5! We hope that you had a lovely and restful holiday and are refreshed and ready to continue working hard this year.



This term we will begin our topic "Half the World Away" which is a Science and Geography-based topic. Throughout the term, the children will be learning about Earth and Space, including looking at the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun, investigating why we have night and day, and understanding time zones. We

will also be focusing on North America, researching famous landmarks and locating them on the map as well as distinguishing between human and physical features.

English

This term we will be looking at the story *The Wizard of Oz* and creating our own pieces of writing based on this. We are going to rewrite the story. Later on in the term, we are going to be completing pieces of writing based from our Topic including the text *Queen of the falls*.

We are focusing on developing the quality of the texts that the children are reading for pleasure. The children are writing some beautiful creative pieces, but exploring excellent works of fiction will develop the creativity of their written work even more.

We encourage the children to explore a wide range of classic and contemporary texts, as well as a variety of authors and genres. Some of our current favourites (that you might want to add to your child's reading list) are:

Wonder - R.J Palacio

Cogheart—Peter Bunzl

The Girl of Ink and Stars—Kiran Millwood

Rooftoppers - Katherine Rundell

Clockwork - Phillip Pullman

The Nowhere Emporium - Ross Mackenzie

Maths

We will finish our unit of work on angles, to begin with. The children will learn about angles in a variety of 2D shapes and how to calculate missing angles using known facts. We will then turn our attention to a unit on statistics, where the children will analyse data and explore different ways to present this. This will include line graphs, tables and tally charts. Then we will start our work on multiplication and division, including short multiplication, long multiplication and using the bus stop method to divide 3 and 4 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. We will then move on to Area and Perimeter. We will also continue our weekly arithmetic lessons and building children's fluency skills.

Supporting Your Child At Home

Reading

Your child will read to us during whole-class Reading lessons and is expected to read independently on a daily basis (at school and at home). Please sign your child's reading diary when you have listened to them read; we hope to see that everybody has read at least three times per week. Studies repeatedly demonstrate the extremely positive impact that regular reading has on children's academic attainment—in English and across the curriculum.

Maths

Please continue to support your child with their times tables; these facts are the building blocks of so much of the Maths we cover. There are many online resources to help with this and all children have a TTRock-stars login.

More Information

Home/School Communication

Please continue to check Dojo regularly as this is the main way we communicate messages home. If you are not receiving the weekly newsletter and other letters from school emailed directly to you, please ensure school has an up-to-date email address on file for you. You can visit the school office or email: admin@etchells.stockport.sch.uk

PE:

PE days for both classes are as follows:

- Tuesday: swimming
- Thursday: outdoor PE

Please see the letter sent home regarding swimming; this was also posted to Class Dojo. Children should come to school on Tuesdays wearing their swimming kits beneath their uniforms; they must also have a towel and their underwear in a named swimming bag. Children with long hair are required by the swimming instructors to wear a swimming cap. PE kit for Thursdays is as follows: black leggings / joggers, white t-shirt, trainers and school jumper / cardigan.