

---

## Spring 1 Newsletter 2024

---

Welcome to Year 5 and the Spring Term.

Firstly, we'd like to wish you all a very Happy and healthy New Year! Hopefully you all had a lovely Christmas break. It is a pleasure to have the children back and we just wanted to update you on a few things you may need to know this term.

**Reading** – Reading for pleasure and the enjoyment of a range of texts is the key to reading success. Reading any story to your child will be of huge benefit to them. Any books, magazines or newspapers they enjoy will help to engage them and ignite their love of books and reading. So, snuggle up and get reading together. We will be building on and developing a range of reading skills in Year 5 including: reading fluently and with expression, using inference and deduction to answer questions about a text and choosing appropriate books that interest them.

Please complete their reading record once you've heard them read or read to them. We would like them to read 4 times a week where possible. Children who achieve this will get a stamp in their reading record. They will also receive a raffle ticket to go into a weekly draw to win a book from our vending machine.

**PE** - Our PE days are Wednesdays and Fridays. We will always try to go out even in cold and damp weather so children will need appropriate clothing every week! It is important that children with pierced ears can **remove their own earrings** and those with **long hair have this tied up**.

**Homework** - Children will be set online homework each Monday on Seesaw. This will usually consist of one maths and one grammar activity alongside practising on Spelling Shed and TTRS. They will have a **week** to complete these tasks. If your child has any problems accessing the homework please contact their class teacher.

### Contact Details:

Miss Wilson – Rowan Class - [e.wilson@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:e.wilson@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk)

Miss Dubey – Willow Class - [j.dubey@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:j.dubey@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 3rd January – Term starts

12th – 18th February - Half Term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February - INSET

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March –  
Spring Parents' Evenings

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Viking Workshop

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Spring Term  
Finishes

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
March - INSET

### Reminders

Please bring a named water bottle to school every day.

Please make sure your child has got everything they need in their pencil case – a black handwriting pen (not a biro), a pencil, a rubber, a pencil sharpener and a glue stick.



## History

This half term we focus on the rise and fall of the Ancient Mayans. We will look at the history of how the Maya were established, their creation story and their religious beliefs, including understanding how significant their Gods were. We also look at what everyday life was like, focussing on food, education and farming.



This Half Term our topics are:

## Marvellous Materials

and

## Mysterious Mayans



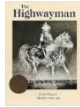
## Science

In Science, we are learning all about materials and their properties. We will focus on electrical and thermal conductors and insulators, absorbency, dissolving and changing materials.



## English

In English, we are reading the book *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* by Louis Sachar. We will be writing a letter of advice and focusing on using modal verbs and adverbs of possibility. We will then be looking at the narrative poem *The Highway Man* by Alfred Noyes.



PSHE

## PSHE

This half term is all about keeping safe. We will be talking about how to spot bullying, discussing social media, thinking about friendships and risk taking. We will look at how to develop independence and making informed decisions.

## Spring 1 2024 – Year 5

## RE



RE this half term is all about Christianity. We will explore the question of how the church began and where it is now. The children will learn about some of the key Christian beliefs and study Pentecost. They will look at how the church is used for various services and ceremonies to show membership of a Christian community and explore how the church has spread across the world.

## PE



Gymnastics – the children will be able to create a gymnastic sequence that include 6 separate elements which includes taking weight onto their hands, partner balances, individual balances, a roll and a jump.

Hockey – the children will develop their understanding of hockey by focussing on rules of the game, shooting, defending and working as a team.

## Computing

In computing the children are looking at both coding with a programme called Crumble whereby the children are taught to input data to create an output and they are developing their understanding of Excel and how spreadsheets work as part of technology in our lives.



## Art



Our Art this half term focusses on Central American Art and we specifically concentrate on Frida Kahlo, who was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by the nature and artefacts of Mexico. We develop our drawing ability by creating our own self-portraits and show our knowledge of shape and colour through the use of collage to show our likes and demonstrate our uniqueness as a class.



## Maths

In maths this half term we are building on our prior knowledge of fractions. We will use our understanding of our times tables to find equivalent fractions so that we can order and compare fractions. We will then move on to multiplying fractions as well as finding fractions of an amount. We will also develop the strategies that we use to multiply and divide. This will involve long multiplication and dividing up to 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.



## Music

We are focussing on Samba; including carnival sounds and instruments. The children will be able to explain what Samba is, clap on the off beat and to be able to play in rhythm. The children will also have the opportunity to compose and perform their own rhythm!



## Spanish

In Spanish we are building on our prior knowledge and learning how to talk about our family.

