



YEAR 5

Spring Term Newsletter 2026

We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another exciting term of learning in Year 5. Last term, the children worked incredibly hard and we're proud of the progress they've made. This term promises to be equally enriching, with a wide range of opportunities for creativity, exploration and discovery.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Year 5 team at y5@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk

Topic: Hola Mexico!

This term, our topic "Hola Mexico!" will take us on a journey through a country with a deep and layered history and a wide variety of landscapes and cultures. While we will explore modern-day Mexico through maps and key geographical features, the main focus will be on the Ancient Maya civilisation, who lived in parts of southern Mexico and Central America.

Children will learn about:

- The geography of Mexico, including its major cities, mountains, and climate zones
- The culture and achievements of the Maya people, including their writing, astronomy, and architecture
- The period of Spanish colonisation, exploring how this dramatically changed the lives of Indigenous peoples and reshaped the region's history.

Children will also take part in crafting and tasting traditional Maya-style hot chocolate, play a version of the Maya ball game Pok-ta-pok as well as many other immersive activities.



Maths

This term we'll be building on previous learning and tackling new areas, including:

- Multiplication & division strategies
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Perimeter, area, and units of measurement
- Representing and interpreting statistics

Children should continue to practise their times tables regularly. Strong knowledge of times tables supports learning across all mathematical concepts, so daily practice is encouraged.

We follow the White Rose Maths programme, which is also available online for extra practice and support.

	Fraction	Percentage	Decimal
1 whole	100%	1	
$\frac{1}{2}$	50%	0.5	
$\frac{1}{3}$	33.3%	0.33	
$\frac{1}{4}$	25%	0.25	
$\frac{1}{5}$	20%	0.2	
$\frac{1}{6}$	16.7%	0.167	
$\frac{1}{8}$	12.5%	0.125	
$\frac{1}{10}$	10%	0.1	
$\frac{1}{12}$	8.3%	0.083	

Routines and Reminders

PE Days: **Mondays** (specialist coach) and **Wednesdays** (whole year group). This term's focus is cricket and rounders. Please ensure children wear their school tracksuit, a white t-shirt, and black trainers. If a school tracksuit is unavailable, plain black or navy sportswear is acceptable.

English

We begin the term with a journey narrative, inspired by the landscapes of Central America and the ancient Maya world. Later units include:

Discussion texts: Should an ancient site be preserved or developed?

Found poetry: Using non-fiction texts and artefacts for inspiration

Mystery writing: Crafting suspenseful stories with red herrings and twists

Grammar lessons will focus on:

- Pronouns
- Subordinating clauses
- Tenses
- Prefixes/suffixes
- Modal verbs
- Parenthesis
- Determiners



Homework & Home Learning

- **Spelling:** Weekly lists are available via the school website under Curriculum and Assessment > English
- **Reading:** Aim for 20–30 minutes daily. Encourage discussion and a range of genres
- **Maths:** Times Tables Rock Stars – 10 studio games per session recommended
- **Google Classroom:** Weekly activities and supporting resources will be uploaded every Monday

Spring Topic Project – due Monday 9th March

Children are invited to choose one of the following (or suggest their own idea):

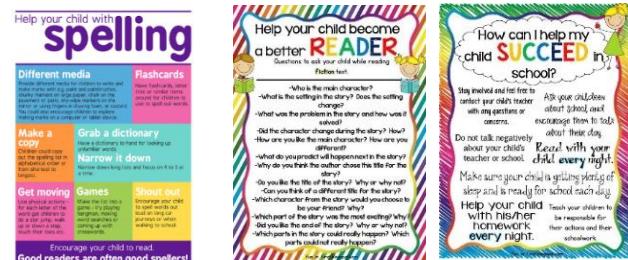
- Create a model of a Maya temple using recycled materials
- Make a Maya calendar wheel and explain how it works
- Design and describe a Maya-style board game
- Write a short script for a Maya myth
- Research an aspect of Maya life and present it in a creative format

What else will be happening in the Curriculum?

- **RE:** this term's focus is **Hinduism** and the significance of pilgrimages.
- **PSHE:** topics include **Dreams and Goals**, as well as **Healthy Choices**.
- **Art & DT:** students will craft Maya **funerary masks** and create **Mexican musical instruments**.
- **Music:** we'll focus on **rhythm**, **beat**, and **reading graphic scores**. Students will also sing, improvise, and compose as part of an ensemble.
- **Spanish:** the theme is "**Eating Out**," with vocabulary and role-play activities.
- **Science:** in spring 1 we will be doing **Properties of Materials** and **Animals including Humans**. Our trip to the Horniman Museum will complement these topics with a related workshop.
- **Computing:** for spring 1, we will be completing out **programming with a focus on selection in physical computing**. For spring 2, our unit will be **data and Information—Flat-file databases**.

How to help your child

Every Monday, we will be uploading homework activities on google classroom. We encourage your child completes these activities and to sit with your child and go through them after they have completed them, identifying any areas of focus. Writing activities are also an excellent way to identify your child's strengths and areas for growth. You could encourage them to try fun writing activities such as writing a character description of a pet or family member, creating a comic strip story, designing a menu for a their dream restaurant or keeping a diary. The tasks don't need to be lengthy—just something enjoyable and engaging.



Educational Visits in Y5 this term

Please refer to our Programme of Events for all the exciting trips and workshops.

Spring Term's Curriculum Week

Date: March 2nd – 6th.

Dress Up Day: Tuesday 3rd March.

If you would like to donate your outfit after the event, please feel free to give it to your class teacher. It will be recycled for next year to reduce landfill and support our Eco-Warriors on their drive for a **greener school**.

Costume Ideas – Hola Mexico Day

For our **Hola Mexico** topic day, children are welcome to dress as something linked to the history and learning we've been exploring in class. This could include:

- Ancient Maya characters such as explorers, farmers, scribes or astronomers (simple tunics, sashes, or homemade cardboard jewellery/headdresses)
- A Maya king or queen (colourful cloak, paper collar or headdress)
- A figure from Maya creation stories or mythology (animal-inspired accessories or symbolic colours)
- A Maya mathematician (carrying number symbols or scrolls they've made)

Children may also choose to wear bright, colourful clothing inspired by patterns and colours we've looked at during the topic.