



YEAR 5

Summer Term Newsletter 2026

Hello!

We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. We're very excited to begin the final term of the year, which will be packed with engaging learning opportunities and exciting trips.

This newsletter outlines the main topics and areas of learning we will be covering this term. Please also check the programme of events for important dates and upcoming activities.

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

We're looking forward to a great term ahead!

Ms Gayer and Mr Sloan 😊



Topic

Our Topic this term is 'Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers'.

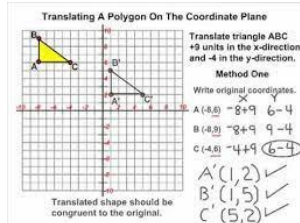
During this unit, the children will learn about rivers and mountain ranges around the world. They will explore how these landscapes are formed, the ecosystems that exist within them, and how people interact with these environments.

As part of the topic, the children will build their own topography models, revisit and deepen their understanding of the water cycle, and develop their map-reading skills.

We will also be visiting Creekside Discovery Centre in Deptford, where the children will explore the River Thames. They will have the exciting opportunity to wear waders and walk along the river at low tide while learning about the local river environment.



for people and wildlife



Maths

This term, the children will continue developing their understanding of decimals, including adding and subtracting decimals and multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000.

In the first half of the term, we will focus on angles and shape. This includes identifying, measuring and comparing angles, as well as learning about different types of triangles, quadrilaterals and polygons.

After half-term, we will move on to coordinates, translation, symmetry and reflection, before finishing the term by exploring volume.

Our TT Rock Stars sessions will continue during Chromebook lessons on Fridays. By the end of the year, children are expected to know their multiplication and division facts confidently and answer questions quickly.

If you would like to support your child further, websites such as Khan Academy, BBC Bitesize, and Primary Resources provide useful practice activities.



English

We will begin the term with a science fiction unit, where the children will create imaginative settings, unusual characters and build suspense in their writing.

Next, the children will work on persuasive letter writing, learning how to clearly present their opinions and support them with strong reasons and evidence.

Later in the term, our writing will link to our guided reading text, Wonder, where the children will explore themes such as kindness, empathy and acceptance through a range of written responses.

Finally, the children will experiment with free verse poetry, exploring how language and structure can be used creatively to express ideas and emotions.

Alongside these units, we will continue to develop key grammar skills and encourage the use of dictionaries and thesauruses to expand vocabulary.

Routines and Reminders

PE Days: PE will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, either with one of the class teachers or a specialist coach. In Summer 1, the children will focus on athletics, and in Summer 2, they will take part in outdoor and adventurous activities.

Earrings & Hair: A reminder that earrings should only be studs. If a child's hair is longer than shoulder length, it should be tied up during PE lessons for safety.

Homework

We will continue assigning weekly homework through Google Classroom, directly related to the concepts covered in class. Homework will be posted every Monday and should be submitted by the following Monday.

Weekly Spellings: These can be found on the school website under Curriculum and Assessment > English. Children will be tested on Fridays.

Daily Reading: We encourage the children to read for 20–30 minutes daily. If you're looking for reading suggestions, check out this list:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-5-pupils-ks2-age-9-10/>

Topic Project: For this term's project, explore Central London on Google Maps and study the middle course of the River Thames. Use street view and satellite images to help, and if possible, visit in person! Choose a section of the river to sketch and label a map, including place names and both physical and human features.

What else will be happening in the Curriculum?

Science: In Summer term the children will be learning about reproduction, plastic pollution and reversible and irreversible changes.

RE: In Summer 1, we'll study Sikhi and explore the theme of belonging to the Sikh community. In Summer 2, we'll look at Christianity and the concept of living a Christian life.

PSHE: We will be focusing on embracing differences, exploring LGBTQ+ community, and understanding gender equality in our "Recognise Me" unit. After half-term, our PSHE lessons will link with our Science lessons for the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) unit.

Art: The children will create urban landscape paintings with a focus on the 'London Skyline and Landmarks.' We will also explore resistance art, including how artists like William Kentridge have used symbolism to bring about social change.

Music: In the first half-term, we will study orchestral music, focusing on Florence Price's Symphony No. 1 in E minor. In the second half, we will compose and perform original songs and lyrics.

Spanish: Our Spanish units will cover 'In the Classroom' and 'Our Past.'

Computing: On Chromebook Fridays, we'll work on vector graphics and learn how to create more complex designs by grouping and layering objects. In our second unit, we'll explore programming and selection in quizzes, learning how to use the "if...then...else..." structure in coding. E-safety will remain a key focus throughout.

How to help your child

Reading: Please encourage your child to read daily. This will not only improve their reading skills but also support their writing development. If you can, read together and discuss comprehension to strengthen their understanding.

Spellings: Help your child practice their weekly spellings. They will be tested on Fridays.

Times Tables: Continue to encourage your child to practice their times tables through TT Rock Stars. We also have friendly competitions with other Year 5 and occasionally Year 6 classes!

Educational Enrichment in Y5 this term

For more details on upcoming events, please refer to the Year 5 program of events.

Summer Term's Curriculum Week

Date: June 1st – 5th.

Dress Up Day: Tuesday 2nd May

Note – Topic Project due. See above for information!

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**.

For a Misty Mountain and Windy River geography unit, dress-up ideas focus on the contrast between rugged, high-altitude peaks and the flowing, life-giving power of water. Here are some creative ways for KS2 children to represent these "Extreme Earth" features:
The Snow-Capped Peak: Wear all grey or brown, then drape a white sheet, cotton wool, or a white t-shirt over the shoulders to represent permanent snow and glaciers. Use silver tinsel or glitter to mimic the "mist" clinging to the summit.

The Meandering River: Dress in blues and teals, using long ribbons or blue fabric streamers pinned to the arms. As the child moves, the fabric "flows" like a winding river. You can even pin small paper fish or "river pebbles" to the outfit to show the ecosystem within.

The High-Altitude Mountaineer: A practical and popular choice! Wear a warm fleece, woolly hat, and sturdy boots. Carry a backpack with "essential gear" like a (cardboard) ice axe, a compass, and a map of the Himalayas or the Rockies.



The Water Cycle Cloud: To represent the "misty" element, wear a white outfit covered in white balloons or bunched-up white tissue paper. Carry a spray bottle (filled with water) to represent precipitation falling on the mountain slopes.

The Waterfall: Use a blue base outfit with long vertical strips of silver foil or white crepe paper hanging from a headband or shoulders. This creates the effect of a plunge pool or a dramatic mountain cascade.

