Newsletter Autumn Term 2026 – Year 5: Buzzard and Osprey

Welcome back to a new school year! We are looking forward to working together with you to provide the children with both a happy and productive year.

May we remind you of the correct equipment that your child must always have at school. It is essential that your child has his or her own pencil case which must contain a pencil, a black ball-point pen, a rubber, a ruler and a pencil sharpener. Please make sure that your child's equipment is sensible and will not distract them or others from their work! Please also ensure that your child has the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled.

In our English lessons, we will be looking at a range of writing styles including story writing, recounts, information texts and poetry. We will be improving existing grammatical skills as well as learning new ones. We will also be extending our comprehension and creative writing skills. Weekly spellings will be given to the children on Mondays and they will be tested on these on Friday. The weekly spellings will be available each week, on the school website.

In our maths lessons, we will be looking at using place value to read, compare and order large numbers, as well as using the four main operations (+ - x ÷). We will then move on to using these to solve increasingly complex word problems. The specific focus will change each week and will cover areas including number and number systems, shape and space, and handling data. We will be continuing with 'Times Tables Rockstars' to improve our recall of multiplication and division facts – please use the website to practise these at home as well as in school. There will also be a regular arithmetic test.

We will be focusing on three main topics this term. We will begin by studying the Anglo Saxons and Vikings, looking at a range of areas such as their daily lives, key historical events and gods and goddesses. After that, in science we will be studying materials, both analysing the properties of a range of materials and looking at how they change state. This unit will include a range of practical experiments. Our final topic of this term will be Viva Las Vegas. This topic will have a geography focus, and will include a focus on the hemispheres of the earth and how weather changes depending upon latitude. We will also be looking specifically at Las Vegas, America and comparing it to other parts of the United States, as well as, with Hertfordshire.

The children will have RE and PSHE lessons each week. They will be studying two world religions, Christianity and Sikhism, and exploring six different investigations into areas of faith over the course of the year. In PSHE, we will be looking at being ourselves and celebrating difference.

The children will have their PE lesson on Thursdays. Therefore, it is essential that the children come to school wearing their PE kits – dark shorts (navy or black), white t-shirt and trainers. Tracksuits may be required when the weather is cold. Children with long hair must ensure that their hair is tied back at **all** times.

In computing, we will start the year by developing our computational thinking and coding as well as programming animations using Scratch. We will then move on to explore how images are created from shapes and lines, using idraw.

In French our topics will be ‘The Olympics’ and then ‘Weather’ where we will learn and use simple, related vocabulary. Our art and DT lessons will look first at typography and maps in the first half of the term and in the latter, we will explore sewing techniques for creating our own Christmas themed decorative cushions.

In music, we are exploring the genre of rock: its history and some contemporary performers. In the second half-term we are studying ‘Classic Jazz’; we will be listening to examples of jazz music and arranging and playing our own compositions. In each lesson, we will also be listening to and appraising pieces of classical music by a wide range of composers from different time-periods.

We will be having a workshop this half-term linked to our Anglo Saxons and Viking topic, date to be confirmed. You will be receiving a letter about this workshop shortly.

Each term, the children will be given a project linked to our topic to complete and share with the rest of the class. In Year 5, the children will also be expected to complete a range of other activities during the week. We expect them to be reading their school reading book every day; to practise on Times Tables Rockstars at least three times a week and to learn their spellings ready for the weekly test.

The children will also receive grammar and maths homework weekly, incorporating the skills that they have been taught – these will be online, using SPaG.com and Maths.co.uk. Your help and support in these matters will be greatly appreciated.

The Year 5 parents’ meeting will be held on **Tuesday 29th September at 2:45pm**. We hope to see you there and look forward to meeting all of you soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr P. Vincent & Miss A. Nicolaou