

What We Are Learning This Week in Year 5

(Week Commencing 12th October 2026)

English

This week in English, we will be focusing on character descriptions. The children will explore how to use expanded noun phrases to add detail and description to their writing, and will practise applying these effectively in their own work.

We will also be learning how to structure paragraphs clearly, ensuring that our ideas are organised and easy for the reader to follow. Alongside this, we will continue to practise our handwriting and grammar skills.

During our guided reading sessions, we will continue to develop our reading fluency, comprehension skills and our ability to discuss and respond to texts.

Things to do at home:

Encourage your child look at what a [relative clause](#) is and then at some instructional texts online in the shape of [recipes](#) or simple science [experiments](#).

This week's spellings:

doubt, thistle, castle, island, lamb, numb, crumb, solemn, knight, knock, loch, ghost

Maths

In our maths work, we will be learning about [prime and composite numbers](#). Prime numbers are whole numbers that only have two factors: one and the number itself – all other whole numbers are composite numbers. We will be linking this with our work on factors, looking in more detail at divisibility rules, starting with those covered last week:

- All even numbers divide by 2.
- All numbers ending in 0 divide by 10.
- All numbers ending in 5 or 0 divide by 5.

We will then be learning two new rules to help establish if a number is divisible by 3 or 4:

- A number is divisible by 3 when the sum (total) of the digits is divisible by 3 (342 is divisible by 3 because $3+4+2 = 9$).
- A number is divisible by 4 when the final two digits are divisible by 4 (e.g.: 52344 is divisible by 4 because 44 is divisible by 4).

Click on the following links for more information: [Factors](#) – [Prime numbers](#)

For a fun way to consolidate your child's understanding of prime and composite numbers, encourage them to play this [game](#) (please note that it may not work on some phones and/or tablets).

Lastly, in the second half of the week, we'll begin exploring [square and cube numbers](#).

Things to do at home:

Practise the divisibility rules together. Give your child some numbers and ask them to decide if they divide by 2, 5 or 10, moving on to the rules for 3 and 4 if they are confident. As a challenge, can they come up with their own numbers that are divisible by each number? Can they come up with a number that is divisible by 3 and 4?

Other Subjects:

In science we will be investigating which materials work as electrical conductors and which as insulators by building our own circuit and then using a variety of materials to see which complete the circuit. For more information click [here](#).