

CURRICULUM LETTER

Year 5 - Spring 2



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TRUST

Exwick Heights Primary School

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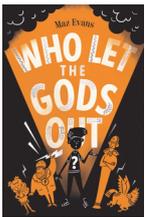
Website: <https://exwickheights.devon.sch.uk> Email: admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Wednesday 25th February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers of Exwick Heights Year 5 pupils,

In **English**, we will be starting off the term by writing a non-chronological report about a chosen biome, linking to our biomes geography unit and our brilliant trip to the Eden project. Prior to this, we will explore the key features needed to write a non-chronological report such as using a formal tone and parenthesis. We will also be completing a poetry unit where we will explore reading poetry aloud and learn about different types of poem and their features. We will then write our own poems and share them with the class.

Supporting learning at home: *Please encourage your child to practise any new spellings set using 'Doodle Spell'. There will also be English tasks set through 'Doodle English'. Please provide opportunities for your child to practise their handwriting at home.*



This half term's weekly **reading** themes include topics such as Rainforests and Space. Our new daily class reader is 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans. An exciting Percy Jackson-esque adventure – the first in a series centred on the Olympian gods.

Supporting learning at home: *As always, do encourage your child to read a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Year 5 children should read at home for a minimum of 30 minutes a day and, for each book your child reads, they can complete an Accelerated Reader quiz to earn points - eventually becoming a Word Millionaire and more!*

Maths learning this half term will include identifying the value of numbers with up to 3 decimal places, as well as using mental and written methods to solve decimal calculations. We will also build on learning from Year 4 around area and perimeter, including of composite rectilinear shapes.



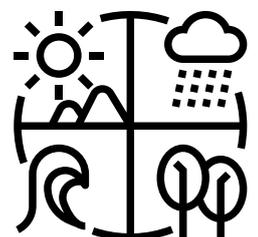
Supporting learning at home: *Please encourage your child to complete the activities set on 'Doodle Maths'. They are also able to access 'Doodle Tables' to complete independent practice.*



Building on our learning about forces last half term, we will be exploring Earth and Space in **Science**. We will learn about ancient and modern theories of our solar system, conduct secondary research into planets and conduct an observation over time into the length of shadows during the day. Excitingly, we also have a visit from the Space Dome, so that we can experience the wonders of our galaxy (almost!) firsthand!

Linking with our class book, our **Geography** learning will explore the topic of Biomes. Using our topic booklets, we will study a range of different biomes, including the rainforest, tundra and savanna. We will look closely at climate, weather and the different fauna and flora that have adapted to survive in certain conditions, ready to create final presentations summarising our learning.

Supporting learning at home: *Use Google Earth together to zoom into different biomes.*



REACH THE HEIGHTS

We are looking forward to one of our favourite topics in **DT** - creating pop-up books! Each child will create their own 3D pop-up book, based on their own story or a familiar fairy tale. We will learn how to use different mechanisms, such as sliders and pivots, to help make our book as engaging as possible. When complete, we will share our creations with our Year 2 buddy classes.



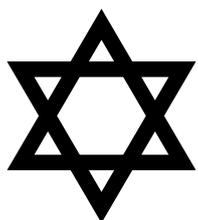
In **PE**, we will be practising our **badminton** and **football** skills. The children will build on previously taught learning as well as developing their ability to work within a team. On a Friday (from the 27th of February), some of our Year 5 children will be taking part in weekly swimming lessons to swim competently over a distance of 25 metres.

Supporting your child at home: *Encourage lots of physical activity - perhaps through joining a club, walking all or part of the journey to and from school or simply through regular family walks!*



In **PSHE** this half term, each year group explores the theme of **'Healthy Me.'** In Year 5, we will learn about the effects of smoking/vaping, alcohol and issues raised by photo editing. We will also have a lesson learning emergency first aid. You could support your child by learning basic first-aid skills together at home.

Supporting learning at home: *Ask your children about their learning in this area - they will impress you with how much they know!*



In **RE**, the key question this half term is **'Why is the Torah important to Jews?'** We will explore the different denominations of Judaism and how the Torah is interpreted, as well as Kosher food rules. We hope to visit Exeter Synagogue, where the children will have the opportunity to ask the Rabbis any questions they would like to discover about the history of Judaism in Exeter.

Our **French** learning this half term is around the topic of a school trip. We will learn a variety of words, phrases and sentences around activities we could complete on a school trip. We will enjoy French question and answer sessions, where we can discuss this with each other, as well as reading a French story using the vocabulary we have learnt throughout the topic.



In **Music**, we will be learning about South and West African songs. Particularly, Shosholoza, which was sung by mining tribes in South Africa. We will sing traditional African songs unaccompanied and learn to play them on glockenspiels. We will play call and response rhythms using percussion instruments and also create an eight-beat break to play within a performance.

Home Learning: All 'core' home learning and reading records will be checked on a Friday with time scheduled in the day to share and celebrate any 'Curiosity' tasks completed.

If you have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher directly or email admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk; your query will be passed to them. If you have any concerns or want to bring something to our attention, please do contact the Year Group Lead - Mrs Gwilt.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C. Gwilt
Attenborough

Miss M. Hansed
Goodall

Miss R. Gabb
Nakate