

# CURRICULUM LETTER

Year 5 - Spring 1



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## Exwick Heights Primary School

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Tuesday 6th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers of Exwick Heights Year 5 pupils,  
Happy New Year! We have a busy half term ahead!

In **English**, we will start the term by writing a non fiction text based on volcanoes. The children will need to use their formal writer's voice to enable them to create an informative piece of writing. We will then move on to a narrative style piece where the children will use their creative writing skills to craft a descriptive animal creation story based on Ted Hughes' 'How the Wale Became'.



**Supporting your child 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.

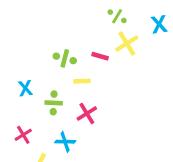


This half term's weekly **reading** themes include topics like Children's Classics and Historical Fiction. Our new class book will be Cloud Busting by Malorie Blackman. Its key features are friendship, bullying and conformity, explored through the story of an unlikely bond between the narrator, Sam, and his classmate, Davey.



**Supporting your child 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! Regular reading will be rewarded with tickets in the 'Read to Succeed' draw, where they could win a book!

In **Maths**, we will be learning column multiplication and short division, building on prior learning from Year 4. By popular demand, we will return to fabulous fractions, discovering how to multiply fractions by a whole number.



**Supporting your child 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.



Science news - we will begin our study of fantastic forces in **Science**. We will explore different contact and non-contact forces and devise our own parachute investigation. We will also explore the work of influential physicists such as Galileo, Newton and Copernicus.

**Supporting your child at home:** Talking to your child about their learning will help them retain facts in their long-term memory!

Linking with our art topic, our **History** learning will explore the topic of Medieval Monarchs. We will build on the themes of power, battles and dynasties. We will travel through time and re-enact the Battle of Hastings, the antics of Henry 8th, Reformation and the Spanish Armada.



**Supporting your child at home:** Encourage children to discuss the monarchs they are studying. Have a debate about who they think is the best one and why.

REACH THE HEIGHTS

**Awesome Art** - We will explore some of the greats from the Renaissance Period. Some the skills we will learn are: proportional sketching, working with watercolours, observational drawing and shading techniques. Drawing can be so relaxing and is a well-known support for wellbeing.



**Supporting your child at home:** Please encourage your children to demonstrate their developing skills to you at home! Perhaps visit an art gallery!



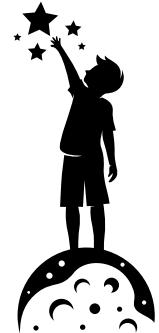
For **outdoor PE**, our sporting superstars will revisit and further develop their rugby skills with a ten-week coaching experience with Exeter Chiefs Community Coaches.



On a Friday (from the 27th of February), some of our Year 5 children will be taking part in weekly swimming lessons to learn to swim competently over a distance of 25 metres.

**You can support your child by** encouraging lots of physical activity - perhaps through family swimming, joining a school 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 '**Dreams and Goals.**' In Year 5, we will learn about a range of jobs and develop our understanding of the steps we need to take to achieve our dreams.



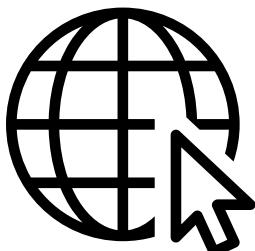
**Supporting your child at home:** Talk as a family about each person's goals.



In **RE**, the key question this half term is '**What does it mean if God is Holy and Loving?**' We will weigh up how Biblical ideas and teachings about God as holy and loving might make a difference in the world today. Alongside this, we will identify some different types of Biblical texts, using technical terms to accurately explain connections between Biblical texts and Christian ideas of God, using theological terms.



Our **French** learning this term will begin with the topic of hobbies; we will learn a variety of words, phrases and sentences related to the things we enjoy doing in our spare time. We will enjoy French question and answer sessions, where we can discuss our hobbies with each other.



Our **Computing** learning this term is focused on creating our very own webpages! The children will learn what makes a good website, the importance of considering layout and how to ensure that copyright laws are followed. The children's web pages will be tested by each other at the end of the unit to assess whether the website encourages a user-friendly experience. **Supporting your child at home:** Do you have routines in place and discussions to promote internet safety in the household? If you need any advice, do ask us or look up 'Think You Know Internet Safety' for information about keeping your child safe online.

**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](mailto: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 and Miss E  
Baxter  
Attenborough

Miss M. Hansed  
Goodall

Miss R. Gabb  
Nakate