

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Year 5 parents/carers,

Year 5 Curriculum Letter - Autumn (1st half)

Message from the teachers

Welcome to Year 5! We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back and beginning our exciting learning journey! We have lots of fun this year with a great curriculum and lots of great practical activities. We hope they are well rested and looking forward to a memorable year. This letter will give you an idea of some of the lessons your child can look forward to during the first half term. Welcome back!

Our Core Values

Happiness: we spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: we care and are kind to all.

Respect: we treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: we work well with everyone.

Year 5 Staffing

Sycamore class teacher: Mrs Lindsey

Walnut class teacher: Mrs Culham

Year 5 learning support assistants: Mrs Skull & Mrs Hennelly

Communication

Please feel free to arrange a meeting should you wish to speak to one of the teachers in person. Alternatively, you can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

sycamoreclass@harefieldjunior.com

walnutclass@harefieldjunior.com

Homework

Homework will be sent out on Fridays, please return the homework to your class teacher on the Friday of the following week.

Reading at home

We have assessed the children's reading ages this week and home reading books, at the appropriate reading level, will be sent home every Monday, starting on the 8th September.

Please remember to send these books back to school each Monday.

We will also visit the school library regularly from where the children can select a book to borrow and read at home. Please return these books to school once your child has finished reading it.

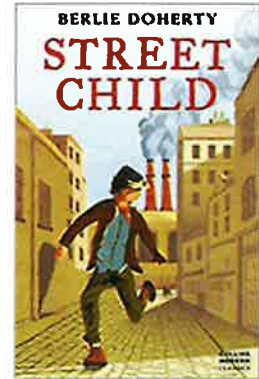
New home reading books and library books will not be issued until the previous ones have been returned.

Autumn Term Learning

This half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

English

We will be reading 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty in English this term. It is a novel based on Jim Jarvis, who alerted Dr Barnardo to the plight of destitute children in Victorian London. We will create 'Conquer the Monster' stories based on this, where a character finds an evil person or creature to beat/overcome. Later this half term, we will create an information piece of writing, a biography linked to the core text of Beowulf.



Mathematics

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be developing their knowledge of place value up to 1 million, including decimal places up to thousandths. There will be a focus on all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) before exploring the links of multiples and factors to their times tables knowledge.

PE (indoor) – both classes are on Thursdays

This term we will be focussing on the Circuit Training unit, which will allow your child to focus on a range of different types of exercise and sporting values. Children will learn about the effects of different types of exercise and they will take part in upper body, lower body and core muscle exercises. They will focus on sporting abilities such as being a good sportsperson, taking part in respectful competition, working as a team and playing to each other's strengths.

PE (outdoor) – Walnut class on Tuesdays for this half term in place of Forest School.

Forest School

Forest School will be taking place each **Tuesday afternoon for Sycamore Class** this half term. The children will be given opportunities to learn in nature, building a range of skills and making observations of the changing seasons.

French

This half term we will be learning 'All About Ourselves', children will apply previous knowledge of topic areas such as clothes and the body, developing their vocabulary at the same time. They will learn to describe their own appearance and are introduced to some key grammatical features of French, such as the position and agreement of adjectives- attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Music

We are very fortunate to have a specialist music teacher in school every Monday and Wednesday to teach Year 5 music.

Science

In Science this term we will be learning about 'Forces'. This unit will explore different types of forces such as gravity, friction, water resistance and air resistance - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Geography

In Geography this term we will be learning about 'Magnificent Mountains'. In this Unit, children find out about the major mountains of the world and the UK. They find out the different ways in which mountains have been formed, and how different features of mountain ranges have been shaped over time. - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Computing

In Computing this term we will be learning about 'Strategic Online Searching' where children will learn to use search engines with increasing efficiency. Children will also learn to look for clues to decide if a website can be trusted and whether the information presented is reliable.

RE

In RE this term we will be learning about 'Commitment'. The children will discuss the concept of commitment in both religious and non-religious ceremonies and daily life - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

In PSHE we explore 'Being Me in My World'. The children will look forward to the year ahead and make appropriate goals that they would like to achieve. They will move on to learn about their rights and responsibilities as a British citizen.

Art

'The Seaside' unit will teach how to use pen and colour, how to print, weave and make lanterns to create quality artwork that shows progression in skills. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the work of 'The Seaside' artists Alfred Wallis and Hokusai.

Please feel free to contact us via the class email accounts should you have any questions over the term ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Culham and Mrs Lindsey
Year 5 teachers.

Key Language in Context: Questions and Answers

Comment t'appelles-tu ? What's your name?	Je m'appelle Elise. I'm called Elise.
Où habites-tu ? Where do you live?	J'habite à Paris. I live in Paris.
As-tu des animaux à la maison ? Have you got any pets at home?	Oui, j'ai deux chats et un chien. Yes, I have two cats and a dog.
Comment vas-tu à l'école ? How do you go to school?	Je vais à l'école à vélo. I go to school by bike.
Quels sports aimes-tu ? What sports do you like?	J'aime le golf mais je déteste la natation. I like golf but I hate swimming.
Que portes-tu ? What are you wearing?	Je porte un manteau. I'm wearing a coat.
C'est de quelle couleur ? What colour is it?	C'est bleu. It's blue.
C'est quel jour aujourd'hui ? What day is it today?	Aujourd'hui, c'est lundi. Today, it's Monday.

Quand je serai grande, je serai monitrice de ski.

When I grow up, I will be a ski instructor.

Quand je serai grand, je serai coureur automobile.

When I grow up, I will be a racing driver.



Key Vocabulary – Jobs

f = feminine m = masculine		Je suis... I am Je serai... I will be	
professeur (m) professeuse (f)		médecin (m/f)	
aviateur (m) aviatrice (f)		moniteur de ski (m) monitrice de ski (f)	
soldat (m/f)		coureur automobile (m) coureuse automobile (f)	
		dentiste (m/f)	
		les métiers jobs	

Key Knowledge and Grammar

Jobs in French need to **agree in gender and number** with the person they are describing. Also, in French there is no determiner before the job name.

- **Je suis dentiste** (I am a dentist.)
- **Je serai pompier.** (I will be a firefighter.)

Key Knowledge and Grammar – Alphabet and Pronunciation

The French alphabet has 26 letters, the same as in English. These sound groups should help you with pronouncing the French letters. Remember that accents generally change the way a letter is pronounced.

ey sound	eh sound	ah sound
b c d g p t v w	f l m n r s z	a k h
ee sound	oo sound	Halfway between 'box' and 'thought'
i j x y	q u	Halfway between 'up' and 'hurt'
		e

	accent aigu
	accent grave
	accent circonflexe
	tréma
	cédille

Je m'appelle Jérôme.

My name is Jérôme.

Comment ça s'écrit ?

How do you spell it?

Ça s'écrit: j-majuscule, e-accent

aigu, r, o-accent circonflexe, m, e.

It's spelt: capital j, e with an acute accent, r, o with a circumflex, m, e.

Comment ça s'écrit ?

How do you spell/write it?

Ça s'écrit...

It's spelt...

majuscule (f)

capital letter

minuscule (f)

lowercase letter

Key Vocabulary – Feelings

Comment ça va ? How are you?

Je suis... I am...

agacé (m) agacée (f)	heureux (m) heureuse (f)	impatient (m) impatiente (f)	anxieux (m) anxieuse (f)
étonné (m) étonnée (f)	content (m) contente (f)	fâché (m) fâchée (f)	triste (m/f)
gêné (m) gênée (f)	effrayé (m) effrayée (f)	fier (m) fière (f)	fatigué (m) fatiguée (f)

Key Vocabulary	
forces	Pushes or pulls.
gravity	A pulling force exerted by the Earth (or anything else which has mass).
Earth's gravitational pull	The pull that Earth exerts on an object, pulling it towards Earth's centre. It is the Earth's gravitational pull which keeps us on the ground.
weight	The measure of the force of gravity on an object.
mass	A measure of how much matter (or 'stuff') is inside an object.



The Moon has a smaller **mass** than Earth so the **gravitational pull** on the Moon is smaller than it is on Earth.

Jupiter has a greater **mass** than Earth so the **gravitational pull** on Jupiter is stronger than on Earth.

To look at all the planning resources linked to the Forces unit, [click here](#).

Key Knowledge	Forces	Isaac Newton
start to move. stop moving. change direction. move faster. move more slowly. change its shape.	Forces can make an object...	 Isaac Newton is famously thought to have developed his theory of gravity when he saw an apple fall to the ground from an apple tree. 
Mass is how much matter is inside an object. It is measured in kilograms (kg). 	Weight is how strongly gravity is pulling an object down. It is measured in newtons (N). 	

Key Vocabulary	
friction	A force that acts between two surfaces or objects that are moving, or trying to move, across each other.
air resistance	A type of friction caused by air pushing against any moving object.
water resistance	A type of friction caused by water pushing against any moving object.
buoyancy	An object is buoyant if it floats. This is because the weight of the object is equal to the upthrust .
streamlined	When an object is shaped to minimise the effects of air or water resistance .
mechanism	Parts which work together in a machine. Examples of mechanisms are pulleys, gears and levers.
upthrust	A force that pushes objects up, usually in water.

It has a pointed nose to cut through the water, and a smooth, low, curved back to allow the water to flow over and around it.

This shark is streamlined.



It does not create much **water resistance** so it can move through the water quickly.

Key Knowledge

Examples of **forces** in action:

Water resistance and **air resistance** are forms of **friction**. **Friction** is sometimes helpful and sometimes unhelpful. For example, **air resistance** is helpful as it stops the skydiver hitting the ground at high speed. **Friction** on a bike chain can make the bike harder to pedal so it is unhelpful.

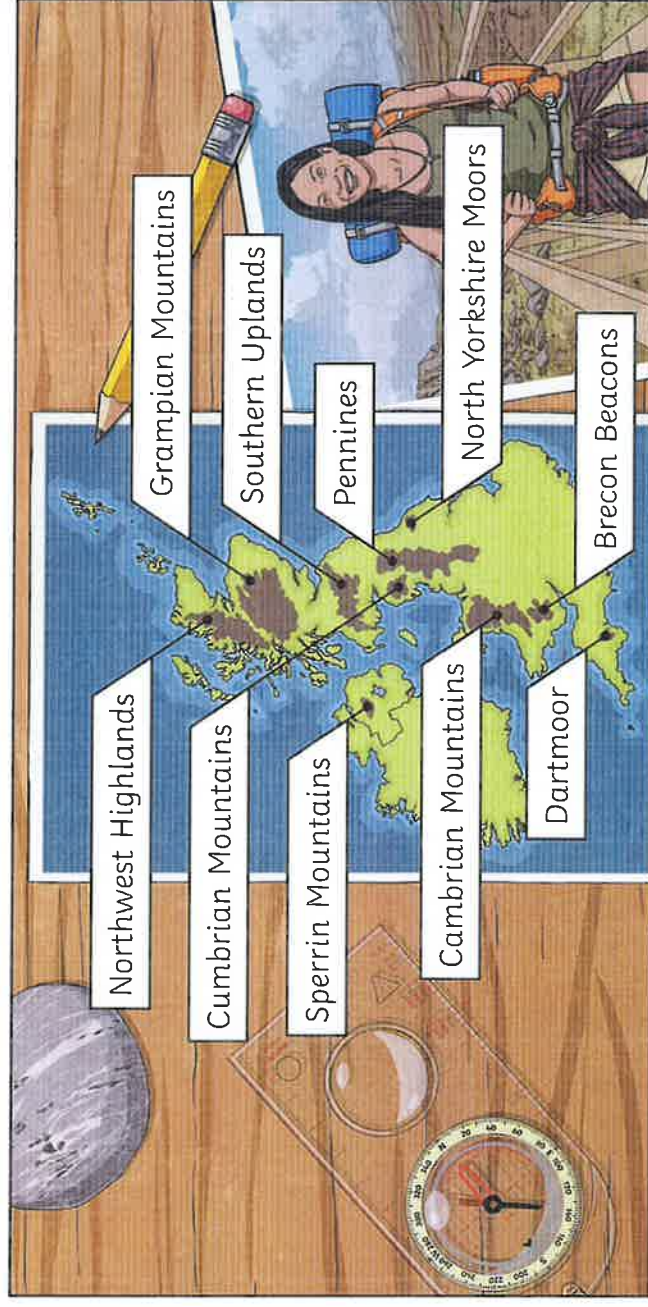
Pulleys	Gears/Cogs	Levers
Pulleys can be used to make a small force lift a heavier load. The more wheels in a pulley, the less force is needed to lift a weight.	Gears or cogs can be used to change the speed, force or direction of a motion. When two gears are connected, they always turn in the opposite direction to each other.	Levers can be used to make a small force lift a heavier load. A lever always rests on a pivot.

Key Vocabulary

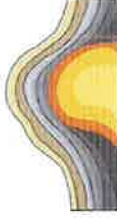
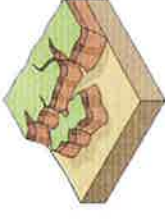
altitude	The height above sea level.
avalanche	A large amount of snow that quickly moves down a mountain or slope.
crust	The outermost layer of the earth.
gorges	A narrow valley with steep walls, found between hills or mountains.
hypothermia	A serious condition when the body gets too cold and can't warm itself up.
lava	Hot, liquid rock that flows from a volcano.
magma	Hot, liquid rock located deep below the earth's surface.
summit	The highest point of a mountain.
tectonic plate	Pieces of the earth's crust connected together.

Mountains

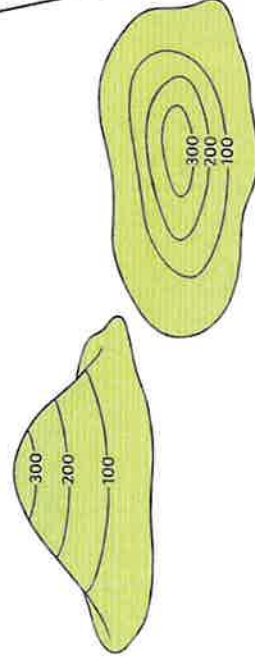
- Mountains are a natural part of the landscape with steep slopes.
- They rise above 300m.
- They have a summit of at least 600m.
- Some mountains are found in groups called a mountain range but some mountains can be on their own.
- Not all mountains are single summits.
- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world – 8848m.



How Are Mountains Made?

Fold mountains	Fault-block mountains	Volcanic mountains	Dome mountains	Plateau mountains
Tectonic plates collide and rock is pushed up.	Cracks in the earth's surface open up, some chunks of rock are pushed up, some down.	Formed around volcanoes and made of layers of ash and cooled lava.	Formed when magma is forced upwards but doesn't ever flow out of the crust.	Materials taken away through erosion leave deep valleys or gorges next to high cliffs.
				
				

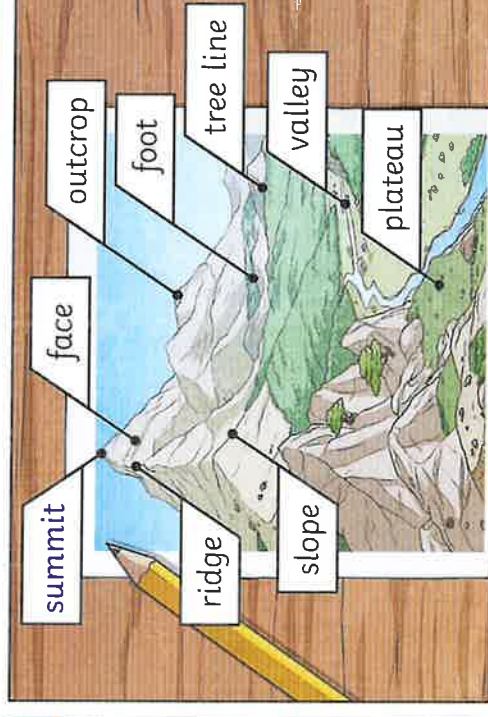
Contour Lines



These lines on a map join land that is at the same height.

They are usually marked in 5m or 10m intervals.

The closer the lines are together, the steeper the slope will be.



Why Do People Visit Mountains?

- The view
- Keeping fit
- The challenge
- Skiing
- Climbing
- Photography



Risks and Dangers of Mountains

- Low temperature = hypothermia
- Bad weather = power cuts/road accidents
- Avalanches/landslides
- Altitude sickness
- Wild animals
- Poor access

Key Vocabulary

Bar Mitzvah	'Son of the commandments.'
Bat Mitzvah	'Daughter of the commandments.'
rituals	A religious service or ceremony where actions are performed in a set order.
Torah	The Jewish holy book.

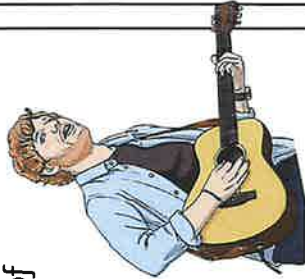
What Is Commitment?

Commitment is a promise to give your time and energy to something you believe in. A commitment doesn't have to be religious. Commitments can be made to family, friendships, a healthy lifestyle, learning a skill or achieving a goal.

Religious commitments can be made once a person reaches a certain age. These commitments are special **rituals** people do to show commitment to their faith.



Many people make commitments to help them achieve their dreams and goals, such as athletes like Jessica Ennis-Hill (who committed to training regularly to achieve success in athletics) and musicians like Ed Sheeran (who rehearsed regularly and dedicated a lot of time and energy to achieving success). You may have made a personal commitment to achieve a goal, such as giving up fizzy drinks or getting healthy by exercising.



Bar Mitzvah

In the Jewish faith, once boys reach 13 years old, they become responsible for their actions. Boys must commit to learn to read the **Torah** in Hebrew as part of the ceremony.



Bat Mitzvah

When Jewish girls reach 12 years old, they become responsible for their actions. Girls must also recite the **Torah** in Hebrew and practise every day to make sure they get it right.



Holy Communion

For Catholics, the Holy Communion is the first commitment made independently. They must attend lessons to prepare. During the First Holy Communion, bread and wine are symbolic gifts.

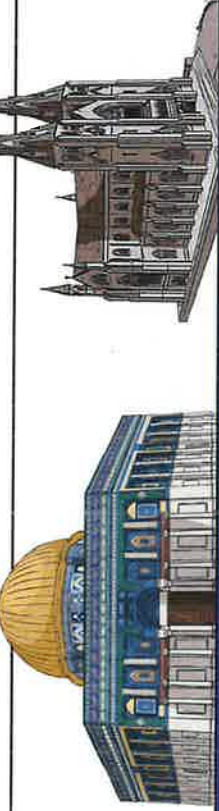


Key Vocabulary

duty	Something we must do.
fasting	Not eating or drinking anything during daylight hours.
Lent	40 days and nights when Christians prepare for Easter.
marriage	A legally recognised relationship between two people who take part in an official ceremony and then usually live together.
Ramadan	The ninth month of the Islamic calendar.
sacrifice	Giving up something which is valuable to you.
sawm	The commitment of fasting for Muslims.

Sacrifice

Many people make sacrifices as a sign of commitment to their faith. Sacrifices can be made for your own good or for the good of someone else. Sacrifices could include giving up free time (or other activities) to go to Church every Sunday morning for Christians or to Mosque every Friday evening for Muslims. During **Lent**, Christians sacrifice something for 40 days and nights.



Fasting takes a lot of commitment and dedication. Muslims are committed to **sawm** so during **Ramadan** they **fast**. It reminds people of those who have to **fast** every day because they have no choice.



Marriage

Each wedding is different. Some are held in places of worship and others in a hotel or registry office. Marriage is a serious commitment and links two people together through a religious or non-religious ceremony. Marriage also links the families and communities of the two people together.

Religious beliefs can affect the way people make commitments to each other. People with religious beliefs often feel that getting married in their place of worship, in front of their god, is very important.

In Hinduism, **marriage** is seen as a duty. There are many parts and **rituals** in a Hindu wedding, including the presentation of garlands, lighting of a sacred fire and walking seven steps. For each step taken, a special prayer is said.

