

January 2026

Spring Term: Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a lovely break. The children have come back to school with lots of energy and enthusiasm for their learning.

English

We will begin the term reading and responding to the book **Journey to Jo'Burg** by Beverley Naidoo. We will be using this as the basis to write biographies of significant Africans e.g. Nelson Mandela. We will then be writing our own information reports on Africa and ending the first half-term with performance poetry. Additionally, the children will plan and write imaginative stories that include flash backs.

Maths

This term, we will be working on our multiplication and division (short multiplication, long multiplication and division with remainders), multiplying fractions, calculating the perimeter and area of compound shapes, as well as beginning to understand how fractions, decimals, and percentages link together.

History and Geography

Our topic for this term is **Africa**. In this topic, we will look at the geography, climate and culture of the different countries that form Africa. We begin the term looking at the rivers, mountain ranges and coastlines which make up the continent before doing some closer studies of historical periods (The kingdom of Benin, Apartheid) and specific countries. Please contact us if you have knowledge, objects or skills which could support our learning about Africa.

Science

In Science, we will be studying Properties and Changes in Materials. This means we will be comparing everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity and response to magnets. We will also be learning about the concepts of solubility, irreversibility and permeability.

Home Learning

Each week the children will be set their Maths and English home learning on Friday which will be due the following Friday. This will be available on Google Classroom. Maths home learning will generally be IXL starred tasks linked to their classroom learning. Please ensure the children either complete the task, or do 30 minutes of practice. If they do not seem to be able to tackle the questions, encourage them to talk to us in school. We will

be able to help. English homework will alternate between tasks linked to work in school and reading journal tasks.

Reading

Please ensure that they are reading regularly at home. We will continue to promote reading at school through our daily 30-minute lessons as well as during our Reading for Pleasure time.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions about your child's learning, development or wellbeing. We are available at the end of the day and via e-mail at smoore@wtwschool.co.uk, jhay@wtwschool.co.uk and sbutcher@wtwschool.co.uk.

We are sure it will be a fantastic 2025!
Steph, Joanne and Sue.