

# Welcome to Woodpecker Class



2022-23

Year 5

Teacher: Mr. Hayward

*Challenge, Commit, Conquer,  
Celebrate*

Dear Woodpeckers,

Year 5 is such an exciting year and it is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to your new class. I am really looking forward to getting to know each and everyone of you and learning about your brilliant passions and hobbies! Naturally, Woodpecker class is the most superior class in the whole school and I have no doubt that this will remain true this year.

Did you know that Woodpeckers are very versatile birds that are brilliant at adapting to a wide range of habitats including forests, deserts, jungles, and even urban settings?

Additionally, Woodpeckers are well known for their elaborate but excellent communication, drumming on all manner of objects such as hollow trees, stumps, chimneys and any other object that may echo loudly. I am sure, just like woodpeckers, your excellent communication skills and adaptability will shine through when we come back in September.

Woodpecker class is going to be a calm and supportive place to learn. I have heard that you showed brilliant resilience and an impressive work ethic throughout Year four: I hope we can maintain this hard-working attitude in September. We will create a friendly classroom environment where we look out for one another in our learning and our wellbeing. We want you to be able to come to school each morning knowing that you will have a great day full of challenges but also full of creativity and friendship. You will leave Woodpecker class being a more independent and thoughtful learner, ready to face any challenge!

Please feel free to contact me at [woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk) if you have any questions: I am always happy to help in any way that I can.



I cannot wait to see you all in September!

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Hayward



### In our class



In our class we are ready, respectful and safe every day.

We have very high expectations in Woodpecker class because we know that in order for everyone to do their best, everyone needs to be ready to learn by showing excellent listening skills, following school rules and communicating well with others.

Children in Woodpecker class will be expected to always reflect on the high expectations of behaviour in line with the school's behaviour policy and will be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for the way they act in and outside of school.

## Mathematics

We will start to become more secure in a range of areas of maths and this will include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- Place value – Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 1,000,000 and determining the value of each digit.
- Addition and subtraction – Adding whole numbers with more than 4 digits using formal written methods.
- Multiplication and division – Multiplying and dividing numbers mentally, drawing upon known facts e.g. the times tables.
- Fractions – Multiplying proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers.
- Measurement – Converting between different units of metric measure; calculating and comparing the area of rectangles.
- Geometry – Identifying 3-D shapes and drawing angles; identifying, describing and representing the position of a shape following a reflection or translation.

By year 5, children should be confident in all of the times tables up to 12x12 and will continue to improve in their fluency and rapid recall of these. A secure knowledge of the times tables is really helpful when using many of the methods we will begin to learn for multiplication and division in year 5 and beyond.

A good understanding of the times tables is a crucial part of improving pupils' ability to become fluent with multiplication and division as well as being able to spot patterns in problem solving challenges. Any practise of your child's times tables at home will be very much appreciated. It will help them start to improve the pace at which they are able to solve problems and think mathematically.

### Place value

In year 5, pupils will learn to recognise the value of digits in six-digit numbers and will use concrete objects and pictorial diagrams to represent these. This is to ensure the understanding of numbers and the number system is secure before moving onto the new calculation methods covered in year 5.

### **Websites to support learning at home**

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them)

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Thinking Blocks - <https://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html> - problem solving questions that can be modelled step by step – some of these problems get quite challenging!

## Reading

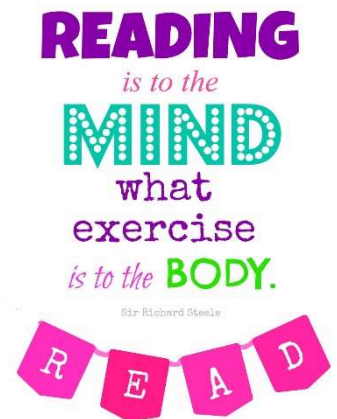
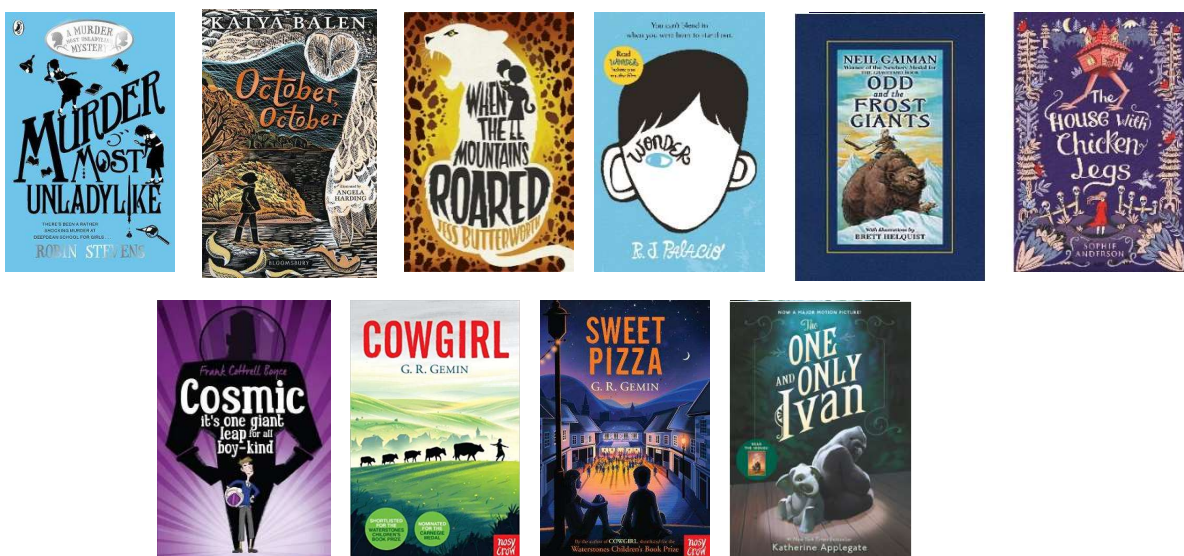
Everyone remembers the first book they ever read that they just couldn't put down! Being able to get lost in a book is a real pleasure that will last a lifetime. As they progress through the school, we want everyone to foster a love for reading and storytelling. If you haven't already taken part, each summer many pupils take part in the Summer Reading Challenge which gets children to read as many exciting books as possible. More information can be found at: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Everyone progresses in their reading at different speeds, but what is important is that children are given the time to be able to read aloud as often as possible. This is because it develops the ability to take in the meaning of the words being read, rather than just the reading of the words themselves. This will also support the use of tone and punctuation as pupils develop their fluency and confidence. By the end of year 5, pupils will be expected to be on or to have passed the red book band which is the age-related expectation for pupils of this age group.

Pupils will be given the chance to read a novel for at least 10 minutes every day but sadly, we don't have the time in school to read with pupils every day on a one to one basis so we suggest that pupils should be read with at home for 20 minutes at least five times a week. Each time this happens, a record should be made in the child's homework diary. This will be checked once a week by the teacher. If pupils have been unable to read five times in a week, they will be offered the chance to attend reading club at lunchtimes.

Each week, pupils will be set a homework task related to the book they have been reading. Often these get pupils to think creatively about the story and helps to develop key reading skills. You will have a book that is the same as a group of your friends and you will group together to discuss tasks and what is happening in the book. These tasks will give you the opportunity to spend quality time working alongside your child as they progress in their reading skills.

Here are a few book recommendations for you to have a read of until September!





## Writing

In year 5, pupils will be expected to use cursive, joined handwriting following the font style below. We will have an increased focus on handwriting at the start of the year to ensure that all pupils are starting from the line, forming ascending (tall) and descending (below the line) letters correctly. This is because the Government state that in order to be considered a year 5 writer, by the end of the year pupils' handwriting should be correctly formed, legible and becoming increasingly fluent.



## Spelling

We will be sending home a list of dictations which should be practised each week. Everyone will start on dictations list 1 and will only move into the next list when they have been able to spell all of the words correctly when tested in class. The words sent home are words that don't follow all of the spelling rules taught in class so it's really important that they are practised at home!

<u>List 1</u> muscle necessary queue rhythm vegetable	<u>List 2</u> bruise curiosity embarrass explanation sincerely	<u>List 3</u> competition foreign leisure rhyme yacht	<u>List 4</u> achieve determined profession restaurant twelfth	<u>List 5</u> ancient familiar guarantee language symbol
<u>List 6</u> attached forty identify soldier vehicle	<u>List 7</u> awkward immediate opportunity shoulder stomach	<u>List 8</u> according bargain desperate excellent neighbour	<u>List 9</u> conscience harass individual interfere nuisance	<u>List 10</u> conscious controversy disastrous existence persuade
<u>List 11</u> appreciate community critic marvellous occur	<u>List 12</u> Dictionary equip recommend secretary sufficient	<u>List 13</u> apparent develop frequently hindrance temperature	<u>List 14</u> aggressive available communicate lightning mischievous	<u>List 15</u> interrupt government occupy parliament programme
<u>List 16</u> accommodate cemetery committee suggest variety	<u>List 17</u> accompany convenience environment recognise sacrifice	<u>List 18</u> amateur category definite physical thorough	<u>List 19</u> correspond especially exaggerate pronunciation system	<u>List 20</u> average prejudice privilege relevant sincere

When it comes to spelling, practise is key. For this reason, we encourage pupils to log into Spelling Shed so that they can play games which use the words that need to be learnt by the end of the year.

We will be sending a reminder of the logins for all pupils in September.

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>

## Foundation Subjects

We are going to learn lots more about a whole range of subjects this year. We will learn about the Mayan Civilisation as well as many other ancient civilisations including Ancient Egypt! In geography, we will learn about several new countries and their features including Mexico and Egypt whilst also exploring natural disasters. Science will see us investigating the properties and changes of materials in the first part of the year followed by light and electricity in the subsequent terms. For each of these topics, we will be setting POWER projects which are optional activities to complete at home. Many of these give pupils the opportunity to show off their creativity as well as providing a great way to work with your child at home. Being optional, as little or as much as you wish of the project can be completed. Any POWER project learning will be collected in and celebrated in school. We will also continue to learn about computing, RE, PSHE, music, French, art and DT!

## PE

As ever, pupils are responsible for bringing their own PE kits which can be taken home for cleaning as and when required. It is really important that pupils have the correct kit in school with them so that they are able to participate in statutory PE lessons.

The Physical Education kit is:

Plain white or pale blue T-shirt (pupils must change their t-shirt for PE)  
Black or navy shorts  
Black plimsolls (daps)  
Dark trainers (for outside wear)  
Navy, grey or black tracksuit for cold weather

### Physical Activity

Think of it as a  
medication you  
need to take daily.

## Forest School and the allotment

We are extremely privileged to have access and use of exceptional facilities around the school. Each year, classes will be allocated a half term in which they will be able to have Forest School and allotment time. In both of these, pupils learn lifelong, practical skills which otherwise would be difficult for many to acquire. For these lessons, pupils will need scruffy clothing to wear underneath the waterproofs provided by the school. As ever, we have extremely high standards of behaviour of pupils in these sessions and reserve the right to withdraw pupils if they fail to understand the privileges being offered to them.

I hope this information about next year has been useful. I am really looking forward to welcoming you all to my class in September: it is going to be an exciting and interesting year!

More than ever, we must continue to commit and conquer the challenges presented to us.

I hope that you have a fantastic summer and return with great enthusiasm for the exciting school year ahead.

Best wishes,

Mr. Hayward.

I would love to start getting to know you before we start in September and so I have created two questionnaires. One is for you and the other is for your parent/guardian. Answering the questions will be invaluable to helping me prepare for September so thank you in advance for your support.

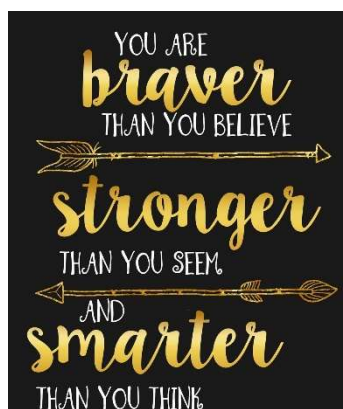
Here are links to the two forms:

<b>Pupil</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/1bM3kUFz2p">https://forms.office.com/r/1bM3kUFz2p</a> 	<b>Parent/guardian</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/d26UWje0x4">https://forms.office.com/r/d26UWje0x4</a> 
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If you have any questions, please just get in touch! Email is best ([woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk)) and I will do my best to answer any questions.

I appreciate that is a lot of information so please get in contact if there is anything I can help you with to reassure you that your year in Woodpecker Class will be the best one at St White's so far!

Email [woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk) before the end of term if there is anything I can help with.



Visit the Woodpecker class webpage to add to our Padlet page for next year!