



Curriculum Newsletter

Mrs Duffin Primary 5 Term 1 2026-2027

The World Around Us

(Science, Geography and History)

Our theme this term is **The Ancient Egyptians**. The children will be using ICT along with non-fiction books to research facts about Egypt, including the location of Egypt, Egyptian culture, the hierarchy of the Egyptians and Egyptian gods. Children will learn how the Egyptian way of life and work has shaped civilisations today.

The children will also explore, through STEM activities and science experiments, how the Egyptians built the pyramids, transport materials and the mummification process. There will be plenty of Arts and Crafts opportunities from making Canopic jars and papyrus paper, to producing jewellery and riches fit for any Pharaoh.

Our Egyptian Dress Up and Activity Day will be on Tuesday 10th November. Children can fully immerse themselves into life in Ancient Egyptian times, dressing up and completing a range of activities

This term in ...

Maths:

In our Maths Mastery programme, we will be focusing on the following areas-

- **Reasoning with 4-digit numbers-** focusing on thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. We also are working on rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.
- **Addition and Subtraction-** column addition and subtraction, building up to applying this knowledge and skill to solving word problems.
- **Multiplication and Division-** Pupils will see the relationship between multiplication and division. It is important that children revise their times tables at every opportunity. Top Marks Maths Hit the Button Game is a super resource for this. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- **Data Handling-** Pupils will be working on bar graphs, reading information from bar graphs, pictograms and time graphs and choosing the most appropriate way to present some of their own data that they've collected.

Literacy: Primary 5 children have just started their AR (Accelerated Reading) journey and the enthusiasm is infectious! Be sure to ask your child how their AR quizzes are going. The children will move up AR levels when they get five 90% (or more) scores in a quiz. In writing, we will be focusing on narrative fiction, studying the features of stories and identifying the problem and resolution in well-known fairy tales. This will help when planning and writing our own stories about Hallowe'en, as well as a story based in Ancient Egyptian times. We will also study Report Writing and create our own report fact files on life in Ancient Egypt, as well as a Newspaper Report on the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. Our class novels for this term are 'The Worst Witch' by Jill Murphy and 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman.

ICT: Our focus for Term 1 will be on Computational Thinking and Coding (Sphero) and Microsoft PowerPoint/Google Slides. We plan to enhance the children's coding skills as they program the Sphero to navigate around the map of Egypt. To develop the children's presenting skills, we will introduce Microsoft PowerPoint and the Google Slides tools. The children will learn how to add slides, choose different slide designs & transitions and explore the Animation feature. These skills will be useful to the children when they are reporting to the class.

Handwriting – We will be following our new school handwriting programme this term, working through the lower case letters, three letters per week in cursive style.

Block Play – We loved our introduction to block play last year and continue to develop a variety of skills through the different stages. Block play provides many opportunities to develop creativity, problem solving, oracy, teamwork and confidence.

PE: Our P.E. days will be **Tuesday (Gaelic coaching for 6 weeks)** and **Monday (12th October – Golf for 6 weeks)**. Please ensure your child brings their trainers to school on Mondays and Tuesdays (up until 20th October).

Homework:

- ❖ **Reading** -Reading should be done nightly and is the Guided Reading Book for the week and the child's AR book.
- ❖ **Mental Maths-** Mental Maths focus and suggested activities will be inside your child's Numeracy homework book each week. This will reflect our mental maths work in class. This homework is to be completed with an adult and to be revised and worked on throughout the week.
- ❖ **Spellings-** Children should learn their spelling lists each week. Spelling activity books will be completed in school to help with this learning.
- ❖ **Literacy-** A literacy activity will be inside your child's literacy homework book each week.
- ❖ **Numeracy-** Numeracy activity will be in the Numeracy homework book each week.

Children will do a Friday Check Up. This will consist of a spelling test, dictation of two sentences (which include some words from the spelling list) and a Mental Maths check up, related to the homework focus and learning in class that week. Children will bring home this book each Friday. Please sign and return to school on the Monday. Homework will be given out on a Friday and submitted the following Thursday.



Mrs Duffin's P5s are reaching for the stars!



Primary 5's Class Contract:

In P5 we will:

- Always be kind to each other.
- Use good manners
- Respect others when talking.
- Talk to Mrs Duffin or another adult in our classroom or school if you have a problem.
- Use gentle hands.
- Listen to each other.
- Be helpful.
- Represent our school with pride when on trips or at swimming.
- Respect the school's and each other's property.
- Work hard to produce work we are proud of.
- HAVE FUN!!

Signed: P5, Naimh, Barbara and Mrs Duffin on

1st September 2026

