Barnby Road Academy
Year 5 Curriculum Letter
Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to everyone new to Year 5!

We hope the information on these pages will help to inform you all about what to expect this term. As a year group, the 3 classes in Year 5 will cover the same curriculum and we will work closely together to ensure equal opportunities and coverage.
From time to time we may use Newsround to look at current affairs and stimulate discussions about the world around us. If you do not wish your child to watch this please let your class teacher know.

English

This term, the children will explore stories from a variety of genres. We will study key texts, including The Girl Who Fell from the Sky, Room 13, and Titanic, considering what these texts reveal about people, settings, and themes.

Reading will be a major focus this term. It is extremely important that children are reading regularly and developing a genuine love of reading. We strongly encourage children to explore a wide range of texts—including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry—and to begin making their own choices about what they enjoy reading. Developing a habit of reading for pleasure is key to building confidence, vocabulary, and overall academic success. Reading diaries will be collected every Friday, and children are expected to read a minimum of three times a week at home and have their diary signed by an adult.

The children will receive a weekly list of spellings to learn for a test each Friday. It would be beneficial if you could support them in learning these. Grammar-based homework will be set fortnightly via Spag.com.

Maths

This term, the children will spend a significant amount of time consolidating their understanding of the number system. They will need to grasp place value up to 1,000,000 and be able to solve problems using this knowledge. Multiplying and dividing by multiples of ten, along with rounding numbers, will support this work. The children will then develop their calculation skills to solve addition and subtraction problems using both mental and written methods. Work on finding the perimeters of compound shapes will be linked to this.

Our second focus will be on multiplication and division, including identifying factors and multiples, and learning and recalling prime numbers. We will also explore squared and cubed numbers, along with their correct notations.

Finally, we will move on to learning more about fractions, including equivalence, mixed numbers, and improper fractions, before progressing to ordering and comparing them.

Homework will be set weekly, alternating between tasks on www.maths.co.uk and practising times tables on TTRS.

Knowing multiplication and division facts for all numbers up to 12 × 12 is essential.

Science

This term, the children will learn about materials and their properties. We will be revising the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases, as well as exploring some of their characteristics. This will include investigative work into solubility and methods of separating different materials, as well as examining their suitability as thermal conductors or insulators.

We will also begin our unit on Earth and Space, where we will study the Earth, Sun and Moon in more detail, along with the planets in the solar system.

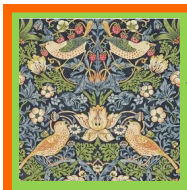
History

This term's history topic is *Victorians in Our Locality*. The children will explore what everyday life was like for both rich and poor children and their families during the Victorian era. We will be completing a Newark town trail, examining the impact the Victorians had on our local area. In addition, we will visit the Workhouse at Southwell to experience the austerity, segregation, and the impact that being a pauper had on people in our community. The main themes the children will study include chronology, childhood, factory conditions, philanthropy, and developments in the law.

Religious Education

In RE, the children will explore the question: *What matters most to Christians?* They will study Bible stories and teachings, as well as core Christian beliefs. The focus will then shift to developing the correct vocabulary to discuss the key features of Christianity and to understanding what it means to follow a faith in the modern world.

Art & DT



The children will be exploring the works of L. S. Lowry, William Morris, and local artist William Nicholson before creating their own pieces using the techniques studied.

Observational drawing, repeating pattern, painting, and textile art will be our main foci.

In DT, the children will learn a range of sewing stitches and appliqué techniques, enabling them to design and create their very own pencil cases.

Physical Education

All children will take part in 2 sessions of PE every week. Indoor PE will be based around dance and tag rugby. In outdoor games, the children will develop their netball and handball skills.

Avon—Monday & Wednesday

Derwent—Wednesday & Friday

Witham—Wednesday & Friday

Children must come in their school PE kit on PE days.

Music

The children will continue to have a weekly singing session on a Friday morning with Mr Higgins. Also, music lessons will take place each week with every child learning to play the ukulele as well as compose and perform their own pieces. Children who have instrumental lessons will continue to have these at their allotted time.

All children need to bring a named water bottle into school.

An old shirt or apron for art activities would also be useful.

We are looking forward to a great term; please do not hesitate to come and speak to us about any concerns.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support,

A Linford J Young H Hewitt

Please find below the homework expectations for Year 5:

Year 5

	Homework	Suggested Timings	Set	Due	Monitoring
Week 1	Reading 3 x weekly	10 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Reading diaries checked and signed by staff
	Spelling practice	10 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Spelling test marked by staff
	Times Tables practice on TTRS (Times Table Rock Stars)	15 mins	Friday	Thursday	Checked by teachers
	Spelling, punctuation and grammar activity on www.SpAG.com	30 mins	Friday	Thursday	Checked by teachers
Week 2	Reading 3 x weekly	10 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Reading diaries checked and signed by staff
	Spelling practice	10 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Spelling test marked by staff
	Maths activity set on www.maths.co.uk	25 mins	Friday	Thursday	Checked by teachers