

Year 5 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

What did the Ancient Greeks ever do for us?



Welcome to Year 5

We hope everyone had a fantastic summer break! The information below will help you to assist your child's learning at home. Our topic this half term is **What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?** Linked to History, Geography, Reading, Science, Art and Design Technology.



Our class reader for this topic will be 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Year 5 will use their VIPERS skills (**V**ocabulary, **I**nfERENCE, **P**rediction, **E**xplanation, **R**etrieval and **S**ummarise) to learn about the adventures of Liam Digby, a remarkably tall 12-year-old who is often mistaken for an adult. Liam's height allows him to experience things adults are able to, like riding a super-fast roller coaster and driving a Porsche. He enters a competition to visit a new theme park in China and becomes part of a group selected to go to space. Liam, pretending to be the chaperone for his friend Florida, finds himself in charge of a group of children on a rocket headed for space.

Promoting British Values - Statutory Requirement

At Bankfoot, we promote British Values, defined by the government as the following: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We will be challenging pupils in debates where they will have the opportunity to express their opinions on the fundamental British Values below.

Democracy – The Athenian democracy allowed citizens to participate in decision-making and have a voice in the governance of their city-state. This idea of citizen participation and the belief in the power of collective decision-making is a fundamental aspect of democracy and remains a core value in our society today.

Rule of Law – The concept of the rule of law consists of the idea that laws apply equally to all members of society. This can also be linked to ancient Greece. In Athens, laws were created to ensure fairness and justice. The ancient Greeks believed that no individual, regardless of their status or wealth, should be above the law. This principle is an essential part of the rule of law in modern British society.

Individual Liberty – Ancient Greece celebrated individual freedom and personal autonomy. The ancient Greeks valued the ability of individuals to express themselves, pursue their own interests, and make choices. These principles align with the concept of individual liberty, which is a cornerstone of our Fundamental British Values.

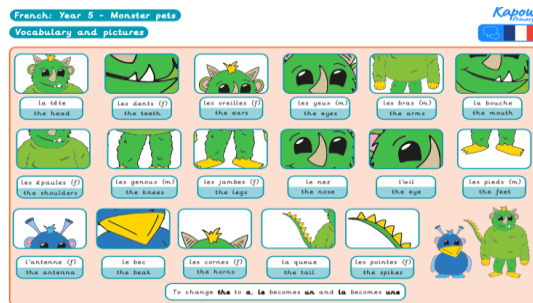
Mutual Respect and Tolerance - Ancient Greek culture valued respect for others, regardless of their social status or background. They believed in treating others with dignity and honouring different viewpoints. This emphasis on mutual respect is akin to the value we hold in our society today, where we encourage understanding, empathy, and acceptance of diverse perspectives.

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Linguists

Bonjour! This half term in French, children will be learning about monster pets. They will describe imaginary creatures and talk about their unique and fun characteristics.



PSHE

Our SEAL topic this term is **My healthy self: How can I support my mind and body as I grow?** Pupils will learn all about healthy eating, staying active and looking after our mental health. They will explore making healthy choices, the benefits of exercise, understanding and managing feelings, and knowing when and where to seek support.



Drama

In the first term, children will be provided a well-rounded and enriching experience, nurturing their artistic abilities, self-expression, and appreciation for the arts. It will provide a solid foundation, by Junior Jam, for further exploration and development in these disciplines throughout the academic year.

Musicians

In the first term of Year 5 music, pupils will learn to play the Ukulele. Pupils will learn the correct names of the different parts of the instrument and the notation values of the strings. They will be shown how to correctly hold the instrument, the correct playing technique when plucking and strumming the strings, and how to hold down the strings correctly on the neck to change the pitch. Key stage 2 pupils will learn different playing techniques such as strumming chords and holding down multiple strings to make playing a succession of notes easier.



Artists and Design Technologists

Children will learn that, in a series circuit, electricity only flows in one direction. They will experiment with breaks in a series circuit and all components turn off. They will learn about motors and their functions and will be able to use a doodler to create an image.



Mathematicians

This term, we are starting White Rose Maths by exploring place value to understand the value of digits in numbers. We will also focus on mastering addition and subtraction using various strategies and problem-solving techniques.

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Writing

In our fiction writing unit, Year 5 will create a new ending for the Prometheus and Pandora myth! Following onto our non-fiction unit in which pupils will develop a set of instructions. I am looking forward to reading these!

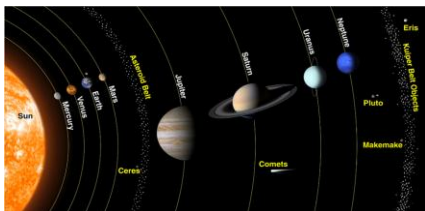
Historians and Geographers

In the ancient Greece module, children will embark on a fascinating journey back in time. They will explore the rich history, culture, and contributions of ancient Greece, including the birth of democracy, legendary myths and gods, famous philosophers, and their impact on art and architecture.



Scientists

As physicists the children will be learning about the Earth in space. We will investigate how the Ancient Greeks realised our Earth actually revolves around the sun and how this discovery enabled scientists to explain the phenomenon of the seasons during the year.



Health and Fitness advisors

In football, pupils will develop their skills and teamwork as well as gain a deeper understanding of the game through engaging drills and practice matches. They will learn about the rules, strategies and fair play, fostering a love for the sport and the values it promotes.



Swimming, Swimming, Swimming

The children are very excited for their first half term in swimming. It will take place every Monday. It would be great if you could support their growth in confidence by taking them swimming outside of school too! For children to earn their national curriculum award, they are expected to swim confidently 25 metres. A minibus will take the children to the swimming baths. Please ensure the children have the correct clothing for swimming. If you have any concerns, please contact a member of the Y5 team.



My Happy Mind



Meet your brain

During this module, children will learn all about how their brain works and how it affects their thoughts and emotions.

Key learning points include:

- Brain Anatomy: Understanding the basic parts of the brain and what they do.

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- Neuroplasticity: Learning that the brain can grow and change through new experiences.
- Emotional Regulation: Discovering how to manage emotions and handle stress.

PSHE

This half term, Year 5 will be exploring **My Healthy Self: How can I support my mind and body as I grow?** Through engaging discussions and activities, children will learn about the importance of physical and mental wellbeing, including healthy habits, managing emotions, building resilience, and making positive choices. They will also develop an understanding of the changes that happen as they grow, how to maintain healthy relationships, and ways to look after both their minds and bodies to lead happy, healthy lives.



Our Mission Statement:

Year 5 Mission Statement

In Year 5, we are kind, respectful and resilient. We embrace challenges, learn from our mistakes and always strive to be our best.

Together, we will learn, achieve and inspire.

Behaviour

Children are encouraged to always behave their very best at school and in the wider community. They know that this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school ethos. Additionally, they

are taught to be considerate and supportive of each other.

Speak out. Stay Safe.

We want every child to feel happy, safe and secure. If pupils ever experience a problem or feel worried or uncomfortable, encourage them to speak out. Remember: tell, tell, tell — tell a teacher, tell a parent, or tell a trusted adult.



Key dates

P.E: Thursdays.

Swimming for all: Monday morning.

Homework: Friday to be returned Monday

Spelling Test: Friday

Class Assembly: Wednesday 21 October

Teacher Training Day: Friday 2 October

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – The Mysterious Bag

This half term, pupils will be taking part in our exciting Star Writer Competition, inspired by *The Mysterious Bag*. Children will explore a range of intriguing objects found inside a mysterious bag left outside our school playground and use their detective skills to piece together the clues and solve the mystery of how the bag has ended up at our school. They will plan and create their own piece of writing, choosing a genre that best suits their ideas. This competition aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curiosity, while encouraging pupils to develop their writing skills and produce high-quality work. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful ideas our talented young

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writers come up with and celebrating their achievements at the end of the term.



Bankfoot Community Values:

This half term, our school community will be focusing on the values of **kindness** and **gratitude**. We will be encouraging children to show kindness in their words and actions, and to recognise and appreciate the little things that make a difference each day. We look forward to celebrating the many ways our pupils demonstrate these values both in school and at home.

Finally

We very much appreciate and value the support you give your child. The school/home partnership plays an extremely important role in your child's progress and their learning journey. It would be great if your child could take the time to do extra research on topics and practice skills at home.

Thank you for supporting us in encouraging your child to be an independent learner.