



Flax Hill Junior Academy

Year 5 Newsletter – Spring 1, 2026



Mr Coleman, Miss Hopkins, Miss Fritz and Mr Williams

This half term we are learning:

English: In English, our sentence stacking is initially based around writing a non-chronological report about penguins.

Maths: This half-term, we will be learning about the following aspects of Maths: square numbers, formal multiplication by a 2-digit number and short division.

Science: We will be learning about space and the solar system, '*Out of this World.*'

History: For our History topic, we will be learning all about *The Shang Dynasty of China*.

Geography: Our geographical work for this half-term will be based around water.

Art / D&T: The children will be evaluating the space art of Peter Thorpe (which links in with our space topic in Science) before trying to create their own piece in his style.

Music: The pupils will be using Gustav Holst's Planets as a vehicle to create an ostinato using percussion instruments in their lessons with Mrs Walters.

French: The children are learning about vocabulary related to planets.

PSHE: The children will be exploring '*Dreams and Goals*'.

PE: In PE, which will be taught by Mr Cross, the pupils will be learning how to balance and travel within gymnastics.

Message from the teachers:

We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas break. There are many exciting events to look forward to in Year 5 this half-term. A highlight will be our Space-themed Experience Day, which will feature the 'Wonder Dome' in January. As outlined in the focus of each subject, space will play a significant role in our learning this term. As well as this, Forest school will take place on Tuesday 20th January. There will also be a music celebration assembly, led by Mrs Walters, towards the end of this half term. All students should be bringing home a reading book from school to read at home. We greatly appreciate your support in this matter and would like to stress how vital it is to foster a love of books in children from an early age.

Suggested Home Learning Activities:

The most important thing you can do with your child is to encourage them to read. We hope that all children have the opportunity to read for at least 15 - 20 minutes every day at home. In school, the children in Year 5 have enjoyed reading independently upon arrival and reading their class reader together at the end of the school day.

With regard to Maths, times tables, number bonds and telling the time are other areas that children can benefit hugely from practising at home. Try to encourage your child to make the most of the school's subscription to *Times Tables Rock Stars* - a great way to practise timetables. Finally, we also set two pieces of homework each week: one will be paper based and one will be set on *Purple Mash*. Please encourage your children to give the homework a go!