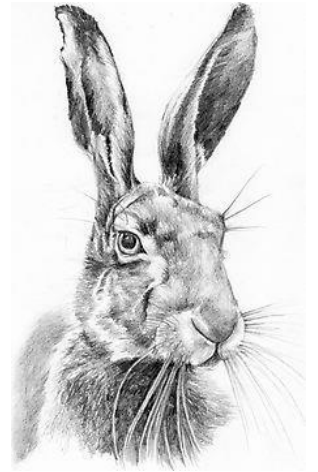


Spring Term

Dear children and parents of Yr5,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and even though your plans may have changed, I hope that you had time to relax and enjoy being together. It feels strange writing this terms newsletter (this is my second re-write!) when I have no idea what the term will look like for us as a class. With the ever-changing pandemic, there is so much uncertainty around schools and lockdown, when we will be back together and how long we will be at home learning. What is certain is that we will all still be together, even if it is virtual, and I continue to have you children's best interests both academically, socially and emotionally at the heart of all the goes on in the classroom. I would like to reassure you that whether it is face-to-face classroom teaching or remote and virtual learning I endeavour to provide your children with a fantastic experience of year 5. The juggle of being in school with critical workers and providing high-quality home learning continues to be a challenge, please bear with me and if at any point you have concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.



What will this term look like?

In terms of my plans for this term, I am going to try my absolute best to continue with the national curriculum and our schools long term plan of teaching, so that your children's learning is not halted. There will be new learning, as well as recapping and retrieval of previous subject knowledge, but in all cases I will use videos, voice notes and PowerPoints to explain as much of subject's knowledge as possible.

Zoom:

It is hoped that with a drop in maths and English zoom each day, I am able to be there to provide daily support for you all. I am happy for the children to log on and do the work on line with me live, or to log on and ask for help with a specific question and then log off, to log on and say hi so we can all see that everyone is doing well, or for your child to work independently a home.

However, it is not ok for them to worry and to ask you for lots of your help when I am there each day to support you all. Home learning is tough on us all, as parents we do not have the knowledge at our finger tips, and our methods may be different to those taught in school. So, my hope that the zooms will alleviate some of the pressure on you as parents and give the children more ownership of their work.

Expectations:

The biggest challenge we faced in September, after the first lockdown, was behaviour for learning. The children had forgotten how to focus for sustained periods, how to be resilient and how to care about their work. I will chat to the children on my videos about the level of work required and my expectations, their level of effort and how they should present their work as if they were in the classroom. I absolutely understand how hard this is on everyone and we are all going to manage the days differently, and believe me I know there will be good days and bad, It is important to do what is right for your family and if you need support from me with how your child is approaching home learning then please ask, as I am more than happy to chat to them on the phone or make a home visit.

The subject coverage

English

As a school, we are launching a new English curriculum in 2021 for all aspects of English. We begin with looking at our writing curriculum in spring term and reading in the summer term. This new writing curriculum will focus on progression of a writing skills across the year groups. In year 5 our writing genres will be:

- Biographies
- Stories set in a different culture
- Poetry
- Playscripts (retelling Shakespeare)
- Formal Letters

We kick off the term with biographies, and this writing task will link nicely into our science topic on space.

We will continue to read every day, reading independently for pleasure, reading for information linked to subjects, listening to audio books and sharing class stories. Our autumn term books were popular, the children enjoyed the variety and we finished halfway through 'Who let the Gods out' so, we will pick this back up on our return. For the purpose of home learning I am going to be sharing a new book by one of my favourite authors Onjali Q Rauf. It is called 'The Night Bus Hero,' I will record myself reading it and record it on audible for the children to listen to. When we have shared story time in class, which is most days for half an hour after lunch, the children doodle and draw, this is a great way for them to switch off and listen to the story, so I will be encouraging them to continue to do this.

The boy's an absolute menace.'

'He's a bully. A lost cause!'

'Why can't he be more like his sister?'

I've been getting into trouble for as long I can remember. Usually I don't mind 'cos some of my best, most brilliant ideas have come from sitting in detention.

But recently it feels like no one believes me about anything - even when I'm telling the truth! And it's only gotten worse since I played a prank on the old man who lives in the park.

Everyone thinks I'm just a bully. They don't believe I could be a hero.

But I'm going to prove them all wrong...



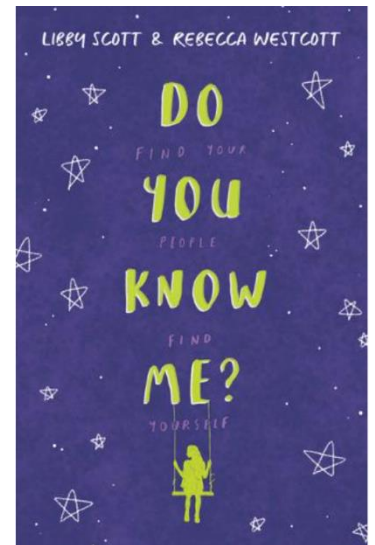
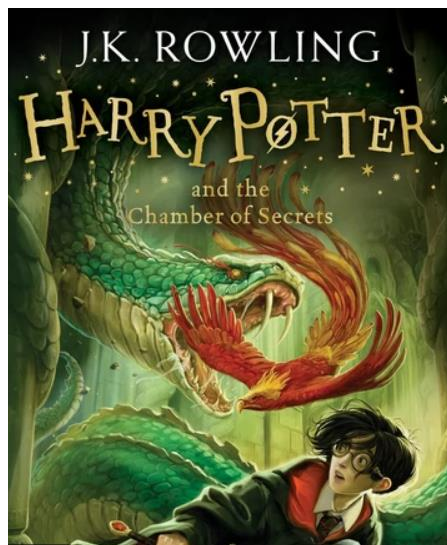
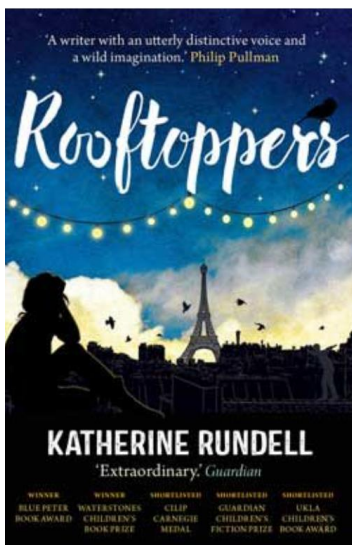
Told from the perspective of a bully, this book explores themes of bullying and homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential everyone has to change for the good.

Reading display

Last term I challenged the children to read from this selection of books and many of them now have their photographs on the display. Whilst these remain a target selection of books I have added to the selection with a few more.



New selection of challenge books:



Join plucky heroine Sophie, her eccentric guardian Charles, and her intrepid orphan allies on the rooftops of Victorian Paris, as they encounter suspense and adventure.

This second book in the Harry Potter series follows Harry and his friends in their 2nd year at Hogwarts. What will happen to them to test their magic and friendship this year?

Following on from the book that we loved sharing in class 'Can you see me?' comes a second book from the same authors.

Do You Know Me? explores some of the most crucial issues in a young person's life – loyalty, acceptance and the intricacies of social interaction – in a moving, illuminating story of friendship and courage.

Curriculum Subjects

In **science** this term our topic for spring term 1 is Earth and Space, these are the 4 main questions our study will focus on:

Earth and Space

1. What are the planets in our solar system?
2. How does our view of the moon change in a lunar month?
3. Why does the rotation of the Earth result in night and day?
4. Why is the earths tilt (axis) responsible for the seasons?

In **Geography** we will be looking at locating the worlds countries, these questions will be our focus.

Locational Study

1. Where would you find some of the major countries of the world?
2. Where would you find some of the major cities of the world?
3. What is a biome?
4. How do biomes change across the world?
5. What are the human characteristics that define Europe, North and South America?
6. What are the physical characteristics that define Europe, North and South America?

In Design and Technology, we are looking at bridges and structures (you may need some spaghetti and masking tape for one of these lessons!) In art, we will be creating work linked to our science topic. Much of this art can be adapted to suit whatever materials you have available to you at home. We will try and keep up with our music using a mix of charanga, using your logins from the last lockdown (which I will send out again as a reminder) and Oak Academy. In PE I would like the children to set their own challenges and set each other PE lessons. I have set myself some distance challenges to complete over the new few months and even over the year (walk 1000 miles in 2021), I am going to set similar challenges for the children. Being in lockdown means we need to keep active and make the most of the fresh air with walks and bike rides. This lockdown is much chillier than when we were in lockdown last year, but this does not have to be an excuse for them to stay indoors all day...lets see how many different challenges we can accomplish as a class.

TTRS – I will set leaderboards and in class competitions throughout home learning, so that the children keep up their fabulously speedy recall of their multiplication tables – why don't you join them and see if you can beat them! Keeping the children active on Rockstars is crucial, 15 minutes daily would be amazing.



All home learning will be uploaded to showbie daily, if you have any issues with access or passwords then please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you need to message me, you can do so on class dojo or direct to my school email: smorris@wickhambrookschool.co.uk

We are in this together, so please do let me know if I can offer support to you all in other ways. Best wishes, stay safe and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Sarah Morris