



Southill Primary

Term Talk

Autumn Term 2026

Bright Futures Curriculum News for Year Five

Welcome to the Autumn Term

Welcome to **TERMTALK!** This is our termly year group newsletter that will update you on everything going on in class this term. We are always looking for ways to improve communication and close the gap between home and school and we hope that you enjoy finding out lots about what is going on in your child's class.

We are looking forward to having a wonderful term with some exciting new learning themes planned throughout linked to our new **BRIGHT FUTURES CURRICULUM**. Linked to these learning themes, we have some fantastic new books to share in class both in our English sessions and also in whole class reading and Book Talk sessions. This Termtalk should hopefully give you some key information about the year and the term ahead!

Reading

Our reading sessions are designed to enhance reading comprehension with sequenced activities that guide children through whole books, creating critical readers. These use novels, poetry collections, and high-quality non-fiction books to enhance children's learning. This term, we will be reading *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. A hilarious book involving a boy accidentally ending up in space! After half term, we will read 'Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow' by Benjamin Dean. A highly recommended book that has won several prestigious book awards.

We also have a weekly 'Booktalk' session. During these sessions, teachers ensure a language rich environment discussing themes and vocabulary in the class readers and ensuring 'working walls' reflect new knowledge and vocabulary. This has a direct impact on pupil's writing. This term, our class novels are:

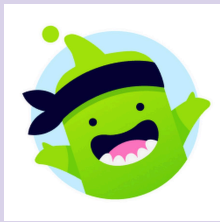


Writing

In our writing this year we are adopting book-based writing units that are based on a wide range of high quality and significant children's literature chosen to engage, challenge and support children to be critical readers and confident and informed writers. All National

	Curriculum requirements of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, literary language and composition are embedded leading towards a variety of purposeful and exciting shorter, longer and extended writing outcomes where the audience and purpose is clear. Our books this term are: -Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly -Firebird by Saviour Pirotta and Catherine Hyde -The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan -Freedom Bird by Jerdine Nolen
Key Texts for writing	
Maths	We follow the White Rose Education scheme of learning that inspires maths to really focus on the 'WHY?' rather than the 'HOW?' in maths. We support our learners more thoroughly using the Concrete Pictorial Abstract approaches, but also extend through reasoning and problem-solving questions and Maths Journaling that flow throughout the whole scheme. This term, we are covering units on: -Place Value -Addition and Subtraction -Multiplication and Division -Fractions
Science	As young scientists the children will explore how Earth belongs to the solar system with the Sun at its centre. They will learn the names of the planets in order from the Sun and discover how Earth and its neighbours move around it. The children will find out why we experience day and night and connect this to the passing of time. Along the way they will uncover the mystery of the Moon, understand its phases and describe how it travels around Earth. After half term, the children will be learning about living things and their habitats, specifically focusing on how living things reproduce.
Computing	In Year 5 computing the children will be exploring the world of systems and searching. They will learn how computer systems are made up of different parts that work together, from hardware to software and how these systems help us in everyday life. The children will discover how search engines work, why keywords matter and how results are ranked. They will also practise evaluating online information so they can begin to recognise reliable sources. By the end of the unit the children will have a clearer understanding of how the digital world is organised and how to use it effectively and safely.
Geography	In geography the children will be learning all about the features of rivers, from their source to their mouth. They will explore how rivers shape the landscape and why they are so important to people and wildlife. To bring their learning to life the children will investigate a local river and see if they can spot its key components for themselves.
History	We will be teaching our history units in the spring and summer terms.
MFL	In French the children will set off on a journey around the world. After brushing up on the basics they will learn how to talk about different countries and cities, describe nationalities and explore the languages people speak. It will feel like taking a trip across the globe without leaving the classroom.

Music	In music the children will focus on melody and harmony, listening closely to a variety of songs to understand how these elements work together. They will also develop their ability to keep a steady beat and recognise the pulse that drives a piece of music, building both their listening and performance skills.
PSHE	In PSHE, we will be exploring what makes up a person's identity. We will discuss why having your own identity is important and the different factors that contribute to shaping it.
PE	This term, our PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays, and we are excited to be focusing on hockey and handball. Through these sports, the children will be developing their fundamental movement skills, including coordination, balance, agility and teamwork. As the term progresses, they will also have the opportunity to apply what they've learned in real game situations, helping them to build confidence, think strategically and enjoy the challenge of competitive play in a supportive environment. We can't wait to see the children's skills, resilience and teamwork flourish throughout the term!
Enrichment	We are currently in the process of organising an exciting trip to support and enrich our learning in Science, linked to our topic of Earth and Space. Further information will be shared with parents and carers once the details have been confirmed.

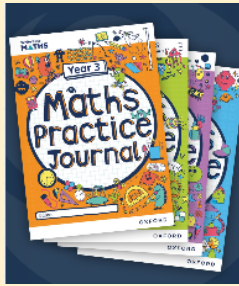
Other News	
Communication 	We are always looking for new ways to keep you, parents and carers, informed about what is going on in school. We use a platform called Class Dojo as a window into the everyday school life of your child at Southill Primary. It provides a way of positively noticing and rewarding children's behaviour in school, a messaging service to allow you to directly contact your child's class teacher and a 'class story' which allows you to get direct, whole class updates from the classroom. As a parent, you are able to connect to this app from home and see your child's school account. Class Dojo offers a paid for and free version. You do not need to opt for the paid for version of the app in order to use this from home. The school office will still be sending messages via the school messaging service and please continue to report absences in the normal way (not through Class Dojo). Urgent messages (such as change in who is collecting your child at the end of the day) should still be reported to the school office to ensure that the message reaches your child's class teacher (just in case they do not have time to check messages before the end of the day!).
Behaviour and rewards	We also use Class Dojo in school with the children to positively track behaviour where the children contribute to a whole class reward target. We have three key words to help the children remember our behaviour expectations at Southill Primary. They are: Ready. Respectful. Safe. All classes have a 'class charter' which clearly explains the school expectations for behaviour and is in line with the school behaviour policy. We expect all children to demonstrate excellent behaviour to enable them to reach their full potential and set good examples to other children in school. In an instance of behaviour not meeting the required standard, the class teacher will inform you and will discuss this with you. This could be via the phone or through Class Dojo. If the behaviour concerns continue you will be invited into school to discuss this further. Please read the school behaviour policy which gives clear information regarding the expectations of behaviour within the school.

Helping At Home

Reading	By far the most important thing that a child can do at home is read. Children are expected to read each day at home (minimum 5 times a week) and this should be recorded in their reading records. Children are never too old to be heard read or to be questioned on a book that they are reading. The discussion that can come from reading with your child and questioning them can encourage a real love for reading that really helps them in all areas of the curriculum.
Times Tables	In maths there is an expectation that by the end of Year 4 all times tables are known and learnt fluently. Anything you can do to help that knowledge go in and stay in is fantastic. 1. Practise regularly and go back and repeat tables, previously practised. 2. Sing tables in the car; at mealtimes; before bed; walking the dog; at any spare minute! 3. Put a poster at the end of their bed or give them tapes to listen to in the car. 4. Download and regularly use Times Table Rock Stars to practise on a laptop or tablet. https://trockstars.com/ Your child will have an account already set up through school! Practising 'little and often' is always the best way! 
Numbots	 https://numbots.com/ As a school, we provide access to Numbots, which your child can access from home. NumBots is all about every child achieving the "triple win" of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating. The more that a child is exposed to these elements of maths early in their maths journey the better their understanding will be later on. Regular, short bursts of time on this platform work best to help develop their fluency.
Uniform	Please name all items of school uniform and PE kit. You will appreciate this later in the year if an item ever goes missing! Please read and support the uniform guidelines on the website which provides clear information regarding the expectations of uniform. Haircuts and colours must comply with the school guidelines. Long hair must be tied back (this is for safety and hygiene reasons!) Please send your child to school with a water bottle and a break time snack that is a fruit or vegetable. 
PE	On PE days, children should come into school in their PE kit. Please make sure that school PE kit guidelines are followed for PE kit. It is also important to note that children are not allowed to take part in PE whilst wearing earrings (for health and safety reasons). If they are unable to take them out themselves, children must not wear earrings to school on the days that they have PE. Taping over earrings is no longer permitted (in relation to health and safety guidelines issued to schools).
Additional opportunities to help from home	As a school, we believe that the most important thing that you can do from home is to support the children in their reading and developing maths fluency (through Numbots in KS1 and times tables in KS2). The school provides reading resources (through reading books linked to our scheme in KS1 and reading books that have been chosen after completing a Star Reader assessment in KS2) and maths licences to Numbots and Times Table Rockstars to complete as homework throughout the year. If you do wish for additional homework opportunities for your child, below are a few ideas and links to resources that can help. Should you choose to use these resources they do not

need to be brought into school (as teachers assess children based on in class work and activities) but they do link in with the school Bright Futures Curriculum.

Maths



The White Rose Maths Practice Journals provide a record of progress for each child and are a great way to rehearse learning at home that links in with our maths curriculum. Each homework activity is matched to the teaching and learning taking place in White Rose Maths lessons each week. It will take 20-30 minutes to complete. The homework books use the same layouts, colours and language used in the White Rose Maths Workbooks (that we use in school)- making them familiar and easy to access at home. You'll also find lots of great vocabulary tasks to support children's language in the maths classroom and beyond. As well as real world maths activities using items from around

the home.

The book for your child's year group can be purchased from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/White-Rose-Maths-Practice-Journal/dp/1782903000).

Spelling

Each week, children will participate in 3 spelling practice sessions. These either link with our phonics scheme (in KS1) or with our book-based writing curriculum (in KS2). If you wish to practice spellings further at home, age-appropriate spelling resources that you could use at home can be found under 'Learning Resources' on the school website

