



# Topic Learning Letter

Year Five

<b>Topic</b>	Our first topic this half term is Eldfell and Helgafel. We will be learning about volcanoes across Europe and how they impact on the people who live nearby. We will switch to History in the second half of the term with a study of Ancient Greece where we will ask ourselves: 'The Trojan Horse- fact, Legend or Myth?'
<b>Launch and Land</b>	We are going to launch our topic by making our own model volcanoes. We will have to use our creativity and research skills to achieve this. We will land this topic by using our creativity to write an eye-witness account of the eruption of Eldfell. Our Greek topic will be launched with a visit from History off the Page, immersing the children in the life of Ancient Greece.
<b>English</b>	Taking inspiration from 'Why the Whales Came' by Michael Morpurgo, we will be exploring warning stories and writing balanced arguments. Taking inspiration from The Orchard Book of Myths, we will write our own Greek myths set in modern times.
<b>Maths</b>	The topics this term include place value, the four operations and fractions. You can support your child by continuing to learn their times tables and by drawing their attention to maths in the real world.
<b>Science</b>	It's time to get our hands dirty in science, in 'Properties and Changes of Materials' when we investigate separating materials. We will be exploring reversible and irreversible changes. After half term we will be investigating forces and will have our own glider competition across the year group.
<b>History/Geography</b>	This term's Geography topic will be an enquiry, based on two volcanoes in Iceland: Eldfell and Helgafel. This term's history will also be an enquiry based on Ancient Greece.
<b>Design and Technology / Art</b>	We will be inking to our Ancient Greeks topic in art this term. Children will be researching pots and exploring different techniques for creating and decorating clay pots.
<b>Music</b>	In music, Year 5 will try their hand at composition around a volcanic theme and rhythmic notation. In addition, we will explore music in ancient Greece.
<b>PSHE</b>	Our whole school focus in PSHE is The Zones of Regulation, this is a curriculum geared toward helping children gain skills in consciously regulating their actions, which in turn leads to increased control and problem-solving abilities.
<b>RE</b>	In the first half term, we will look at the question <i>Is believing in God reasonable?</i> , which we will tackle with a philosophical approach. In the second half term we will investigate <i>How has belief in Christianity and Islam impacted on music and art through history?</i> through a social science perspective.

<b>Reminders</b>	Year 5 will be swimming for the first half term. PE will be on a Thursday afternoon and children should come into school dressed in their PE kit that day.
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If you have any questions or concerns at all please talk to one of the Year Five Team.

## Reading matters

As well as building up fluency and reading independently, children in Year Five still need the opportunity to read with an adult. We really want **all** our junior children to have a bedtime story – after all you are never too old to have a bedtime story.

Not only is it a great way to settle into bed (and off those screens); it is a great way to connect together as well as a way of exploring new vocabulary. These are also great stories for you; after years of enduring Biff and Kipper - why not give yourself a treat with one of these books. Please choose a book from this list or the school library, local library or from a bookshelf at home to read together very night. Remember to record which book you have chosen in your child's planner.

### Suggested reading list for Year 5

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken  
 The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd  
 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll  
 The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
 Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan  
 Beetle Boy by M. G. Leonard  
 Wonder by R. J. Palacio  
 Wold Brother by Michelle Paver  
 The Midnight Fox by Betsy Byars  
 FArTHER by Grahame Baker-Smith  
 The Borrowers by Mary Norton  
 Stig of the Dump by Clive King  
 Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen  
 The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell  
 Heidi by Johanna Spyri  
 Dial a Ghost by Eva Ibbotson  
 Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke  
 Emil and the Detectives by Erich Kastner

If your child is not into stories, look at a non-fiction book together there are many great ones about volcanoes!