



# 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. Our topic in the second half term will be Rainforest Rescue and will involve comparing and contrasting two continents.
<b>Launch and Land</b>	We are going to launch our topic by making our own model volcanoes. We will land this topic by using our creativity to write an eye-witness account of the eruption of Eldfell.
<b>English</b>	Taking inspiration from 'Why the Whales Came' by Michael Morpurgo, we will be exploring warning stories and writing balanced arguments. After half term, we will be exploring portal stories and figurative language alongside reading our class text 'The Tale of Truthwater Lake' by Emma Carroll.
<b>Maths</b>	The topics this term include place value and the four operations. 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 also be exploring reversible and irreversible changes.
<b>History/Geography</b>	Our first Geography topic this term will be an enquiry, based on two volcanoes in Iceland: Eldfell and Helgafel. Our second Geography topic will involve studying rainforest biomes in the UK and South America.
<b>Design and Technology / Art</b>	In DT we will be investigating and making a healthy pizza dinner. Our art will be inspired by Henri Rousseau and linked to our geography topic to create a rainforest collage with a range of mixed media.
<b>Music</b>	In music, Year 5 will try their hand at composition around a volcanic theme and rhythmic notation. After half term, music will be linked to our geography topic, creating a rainforest soundscape.
<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. In the second half of the term our unit is 'celebrating difference'.
<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>	In Autumn 1, Year 5 will have 2 PE sessions, one being a dance session. PE sessions will be on a Monday and Wednesday for the first half of the term. Children should come into school dressed in their PE kit on PE days. In Autumn 2, children will have PE on a Thursday and Swimming on a Monday.

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!