Curriculum Information

Grade 5

ENGLISH

Whether your child is a bookworm or doesn't enjoy English at all, knowing what they're learning in school means you can give them extra support at home. Here's your guide to what they're being taught as part of the Grade 5 English curriculum.

Literacy is still made up of the three areas of

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and listening

During year 5, children will be studying one or more of the following topics:

- Stories by significant authors
- Fables, myths and legends
- Stories from other cultures
- Older literature
- Stories and film
- Drama
- Poetry and poetic styles
- Persuasive writing
- Recounts

Reading in Grade 5 – your child will:

- continue to read an increasingly wide range of fiction, poetry, plays and non-fiction texts
- read fiction texts both modern and old, and from other cultures and traditions
- prepare poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation and volume
- infer characters' feelings from their actions and justifying inferences with evidence
- discuss how authors use figurative language
- distinguish between fact and opinion

Children should be allowed to choose a book at school to take home with them to read. You may be given an exercise book in order to write your comments in when you read with them. As part of guided reading, children will read with their teacher in groups once a week.

Try this at home:

- *If you find it hard to find the time to read to your child, make the most of holidays. Choose a special book and read a chapter a night*
- *If you have a child who enjoys making things, look for practical 'how to' books to inspire them. They may not be traditional story books, but it's still valuable reading experience*
- *Look out for events in your local library or bookshop – there could be a summer reading scheme or a chance to meet an author*

Writing in Grade 5 – your child will:

- use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them (find out more about Y5 spelling patterns and rules in our parents' guide)
- spell some words with silent letters
- learn the spelling of more difficult homophones (words which sound the same but are spelt differently)
- use a dictionary and a thesaurus
- use adverbs and adverbials to explain how something is being done

- write with neat, legible handwriting; write with increasing speed
- use brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis
- use commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity
- learn to select appropriate grammar and vocabulary
- describe settings, characters and atmosphere in narratives and integrate dialogue
- carefully structure texts with a range of organisational devices, including time connectives, paragraphs, headings, bullet points, underlining.
- assess and improve the effectiveness of their writing

Try this at home:

- *When your child writes at home, encourage them to read their work aloud. That way, you can both talk about it, and how it could be improved*
- *Make sure there's somewhere quiet for them to concentrate and create when they're working at home*
- *If you go away during the holidays, suggest they keep a journal*

MATHS

From probability to polygons, find out what your child will learn about in maths in Grade 5.

By Grade 5, children should be confident with one- and two-step problems and using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and they will be able to decide on the best way of solving a problem. There is still a focus on times tables, as not all children are completely sure of these. Calculators are now being used with fractions and decimal work, and the children will use ICT to present their work. Set squares and protractors are being used for work with angles and shapes, and percentages are introduced now. Children will be practising their mental maths, as well as using written and practical methods to help them calculate. It's also important for the children to see how their maths work links to life outside school, and to other areas of the curriculum.

Number and place value

- Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 1,000,000
- Counting forwards and backwards with positive and negative numbers
- Rounding any number up to one million to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10,000, 100,000

Calculating

- Adding and subtracting with numbers up to four digits using column addition and subtraction
- Identifying factors and multiples of different numbers
- Identifying prime numbers
- Multiplying four-digit numbers with two-digit numbers using long multiplication
- Dividing four-digit numbers by one-digit numbers using short division
- Multiplying whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000
- Recognising and using square numbers and cube numbers
- Solving problems involving all four operations

Fractions, decimals and percentages

- Comparing and ordering fractions whose denominators are all multiples of the same number
- Converting from mixed numbers to improper fractions
- Adding and subtracting fractions whose denominators are multiples of the same number
- Mutiplying proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers
- Rounding decimals with two places to the nearest whole number and to one decimal place
- Comparing numbers with up to three decimal places
- Begining to understand percentages
- Knowing percentage and decimal equivalents of 1/2, 1/4, 1/5, 2/5 and 4/5

Measuring

- Converting between units of measurement
- Working out the perimeter and area of shapes (including irregular shapes)
- Solving problems involving money and measures
- Solving problems involving converting between units of time

Geometry

- Drawing and measuring angles
- Finding angles around a point, on a straight line and within a right angle

Statistics

- Solving comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in a line graph
- Completing and interpreting information in tables, including timetables

Try this at home

- *If your child has a watch, encourage them to wear it and get in the habit of looking at the time – it could be analogue or digital*
- *Card games are perfect for playing with numbers. If you're struggling to remember the games you played as a child, try asking the grandparents!*
- *Most children love cooking. Following a simple recipe will give them valuable practice in measuring and weighing the ingredients and calculating cooking time. If you want to make it trickier, ask them to double or halve the quantities*

SCIENCE

Your guide to what's covered in the Grade 5 science curriculum.

In Grade 5 science, your child will be encouraged to ask questions about scientific concepts and then carry out experiments to find out the answers. In doing this they will:

- understand what variables are and how to control them.
- take measurements from a range of equipment, understanding the need for repeated measures to increase accuracy.
- gather and record data using labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.
- use test results to make further predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.
- make conclusions on the test carried out, orally and in writing.

Grade 5 science topics

Living things and their habitats

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- describe the process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Animals, including humans

- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- learn about puberty and when and why this occurs.
- compare gestation (pregnancy) periods of different animals.

Properties and changes of materials

- compare materials based on their properties of hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity and response to magnets.
- dissolve materials and then recover a substance from the solution made.
- separate materials by filtering, sieving and evaporating.
- look at ways materials can be changed and whether these changes are reversible or not.

Earth and space

- describe the movement of the earth and other planets in relation to the sun.
- describe the movement of the moon relative to the earth.
- understand how day and night are caused by the earth's rotation.

Forces

- investigate the forces of gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction.
- understand that levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Try this at home

- *See if you can find the following objects around the house: liquid soap, rice, flour, some paperclips and a piece of cling film. Which one do you think is the hardest? You may need to test this by bending the objects where you can. Which ones are water soluble? Test this by putting each one in some water and seeing if it dissolves into the water: you may need to give the mixture a good shake! Which ones are transparent? Are any of them magnetic? Test this by using a fridge magnet.*
- *Test how air resistance differs according to the shape, size or weight of a different object. Find various small objects (for example: a pen, a piece of kitchen paper, a small book, a sheet of tin foil and a scrunched up piece of tin foil). Stand on a chair and drop each one. Get someone to time how long it takes for each object to hit the floor. Why do you think some things take less time than others?*
- *Go on line and see if you can find any information on life cycles or the solar system. Do some reading up and see if you can become an expert before you are due to learn this topic!*