

Welcome to Woodpecker Class



2025-2026

Teacher: Miss Hall

Challenge, Commit, Conquer, Celebrate

Hello Woodpecker!

Welcome to Year five! I am so excited for all of us to be in Woodpecker together and it's so lovely to have so many familiar faces in the class. We obviously have an amazing class this year and I know we will have a fantastic time together!

In our class, my expectations for behaviour are extremely high. I expect all Woodpeckers to try new things and to always give 100% effort whilst doing so. However, learning is supposed to be fun, engaging and exciting where we will develop our curiosity through asking questions and exploring to find answers to these questions. I am excited to do some learning alongside you this year too! I know that you all want to do your best and I promise to help you reach your potential and beyond! When you leave Woodpecker, you will be well prepared for Year 6 and ready to smash your last year at St. White's.

In Woodpecker class, we are always ready to learn, be respectful to every adult and every peer and should always feel as if they are in a safe and stimulating environment. If any pupil has any issues, then I am always ready to listen and try my best to help.

As you are now entering year five, we have so many things to look forward to, with poetry performance, cooking and swimming to name a few! I cannot wait to begin our journey in learning, where I know you will all work super hard and enjoy the process along the way. You all know I have a massive passion for reading and history – our class books and topics this year are very exciting and I cannot wait to get started!

Best wishes,

Miss Hall



Mathematics

What will I learn in year 5?

We will build on what you have learnt in year 4, helping you to become more secure in your knowledge and understanding. This will include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- **Place value** – Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 1,000,000 and determining the value of each digit.
- **Addition and subtraction** – Adding whole numbers with more than 4 digits using formal written methods.
- **Multiplication and division** – Multiplying and dividing numbers mentally, drawing upon known facts e.g. the times tables.
- **Fractions** – Multiplying proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers.
- **Measurement** – Converting between different units of metric measure; calculating and comparing the area of rectangles.
- **Geometry** – Identifying 3-D shapes and drawing angles; identifying, describing and representing the position of a shape following a reflection or translation.

Times tables are extremely important when entering year 5 and by now you should be able to rapidly recall all 12 times tables. If you are not quite there yet, then please use this opportunity of being at home to be playing TT Rockstars and practicing times tables. Let's see if we can get some of the quickest timetables players in the school and take over the whole leader board!

Here is the order I would learn them (and some helpful hints!):

x10 **x2** **x5** (all 5s end in either 5 or 0!) **x4** (double the 2s!) **x9** (have you learnt how to use your fingers to help you?) **x3** **x6** (double the 3s!) **x8** (double the 4s!) **x7** **x11** **x12**

Remember that 3×4 and 4×3 give the same answer so there are actually fewer to learn than you think!

Websites to support learning at home

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables (Contact me if you are not sure of your login – it will be the same as this year and I will be able to see your brilliant progress)

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them) (This is the same login as TT Rockstars)

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Thinking Blocks - <https://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html> - problem solving questions that can be modelled step by step – some of these problems get quite challenging!

Will I have to do maths at home?

The short answer is 'yes!' All the time if possible – adding up prices in the shop and weighing ingredients for cooking are just some of the useful activities for building confidence with number.

In addition to this, you will have maths homework to complete weekly – this will all be explained soon.

Where can I find out more information to help me and my parents?

Check out the Woodpecker webpage for any resources linked to the areas that we currently learning in all subjects. If there is something that you would like support with that isn't on there, please contact me!

Reading

Reading will be a key part of your time in Woodpecker Class. I love reading and exploring new novels with you. We will take every opportunity to read and talk about books together!

Which books will I read this year in Woodpecker Class?

It's a surprise! Our class novels will remain a secret and I will reveal them at the beginning of every term – sometimes I'll wrap them up with clues and see if you can guess what they are.

Other books that you read will be a mixture of ones that you choose and ones that I think you will enjoy!

Which reading skills will I learn this year?

You will continue to develop the skills of retrieval, clarifying vocabulary, inference and summarising amongst others that you have learnt in year 4 but some of the texts will be more complex. You will always be encouraged to back up your answers with evidence from the text.

Will I have to do reading homework?

You will need to aim to complete a reading activity daily for a minimum of 10 minutes – this could be listening to an audio book; reading to a parent/sibling/teddy bear/cat; reading to yourself; filming yourself reading; using read theory or recommending a book to others. You will be asked to write your home reading in to your reading record at least 5 times a week. Because I am so passionate about reading, I am always willing to find opportunities to support you with your reading at lunchtime if you are unable to complete your daily 10 minutes at home.

Please can we have some recommendations?

Go on then! I don't want to give away all my good books now but will share with you some favourites that you might like to try!



Writing

In writing this year we are going to have to work harder than ever. Like everything else, my expectations are high and all pupils in Woodpecker Class should be joining their handwriting all of the time. This is something we will be working on over the year, below is an example of the correct letter formation and expectations for year 5.

Spelling

Spelling this year will be the same as last year. Pupils will be provided with dictations that include spellings that do not follow a rule and need to be 'learnt'. This is because in school we will be working on all the other spelling rules in spellings lessons over the year.



Pupils will be tested every Thursday morning and if they are able to correctly spell their dictations they will receive a stamp in their reading record and move onto the next list. If you are not in school on a Friday, you will have to wait until the following week to be tested and we will need to use any other time for other learning. The key to success in spellings is practice!

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>

Here are your dictations for the upcoming year.

Year 5/6 word lists

List 1 muscle necessary queue rhythm vegetable	List 2 bruise curiosity embarrass explanation sincerely	List 3 competition foreign leisure rhyme yacht	List 4 achieve determined profession restaurant twelfth	List 5 ancient familiar guarantee language symbol
List 6 attached forty identify soldier vehicle	List 7 awkward immediate opportunity shoulder stomach	List 8 according bargain desperate excellent neighbour	List 9 conscience harass individual interfere nuisance	List 10 conscious controversy disastrous existence persuade
List 11 appreciate community critic marvellous occur	List 12 dictionary equip recommend secretary sufficient	List 13 apparent develop frequently hindrance temperature	List 14 aggressive available communicate lightning mischievous	List 15 interrupt government occupy parliament programme
List 16 accommodate cemetery committee suggest variety	List 17 accompany convenience environment recognise sacrifice	List 18 amateur category definite physical thorough	List 19 correspond especially exaggerate pronunciation system	List 20 average prejudice privilege relevant sincere

Other areas of learning

What will you do if I need some extra help with my learning?

Within the class, there will be people who have different starting points in different subjects. We will use a mixture of pre-teaching the day before, breaking things down into small steps, interventions and challenges to make sure that everyone is learning.

Over the year, you may be invited to a morning group with a small group of your friends from 8am. We will do some targeted work together and then enjoy a chocolate biscuit before everyone else gets to school. Personal invitations will be sent out to those who will benefit from the focus on particular day during a particular term and groups will change over the year.

Will I get to learn outside?

We hope so – come rain or shine! We will have two PE sessions a week: Monday and Wednesday afternoon. You will be expected to take responsibility for making sure you have your PE kit in school on these days. If you are unsure of what to include in your PE kit, I will attach the list below:

The Physical Education kit is:

Plain white or pale blue T-shirt (pupils must change their t-shirt for PE)

Black or navy shorts

Black plimsolls (daps)

Dark trainers (for outside wear)

Navy, grey or black tracksuit for cold weather

Remember to put your name in all items of your PE kit!

We will have opportunities to take part in Forest School sessions and work on the allotment over the year.

I hope you are looking forward to the start of the year in Woodpecker class – I am!

Questions? I know that was a lot of information, so if you need something explaining or have any worries at all please send me an email at woodpecker@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk and I will try to answer your questions!