

Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year at Berrywood! We are delighted to welcome both you and your child to Year 5, and are excited to embark on this next stage of their learning journey together. We have really enjoyed meeting the children and have been very impressed with how they have responded to the raised level of expectations. As part of this, the children are encouraged to model excellence in everything they do. This includes the way they present themselves to visitors, adults and children around the school, the manner in which they talk to both adults and children, ensuring they are respectful, polite and well-mannered as well as the quality and presentation of their work.

This term we will be placing an increased focus on reading. Alongside whole class reading of some engaging texts, we will also be encouraging the children to read more often and a greater variety of books. Our library visits will be used to choose appropriate and varied reading books that can be brought home and shared. The use of reading logs will be continued to support this process and weekly evidence of this will be rewarded with opportunities to participate in the weekly reading raffle. Reading in the home is still very important in Year 5 and a vital way to support your child's learning.

In Year 5, children should come dressed in their PE kits on the days when we have PE. They will remain in their PE kits all day. The expectation is that they wear their 'house' coloured Berrywood logo PE T-shirt and maroon or dark coloured shorts. When the weather is colder, they may wear black or grey joggers, sports trousers or leggings. Please wear the usual Berrywood jumper. We are asking that their PE uniform has no branded clothes or hoodies so that the children still look smart as if they are in our Berrywood uniform when in class. Trainers may be worn to school on PE days.

Weekly Routines Reminder

Monday: Library (please ensure your child has their library book in school to change weekly on a Monday).

Wednesday: Indoor PE
Reading diaries checked

Friday: Outdoor PE
Times Tables test

Key Dates

23.09.2026:	Shakespeare 'Macbeth' performance
19.10.2026	Autumn market
20.10.2026	Parents' Evening
22.10.2026	Parents' Evening
26.10.2026	Half-Term
18.11.2026	Individual school photos
20.11.2026	Individual school photos
27.11.2026	INSET day
11.11.2026	HW5 Celebration event
12.11.2026	CB5 Celebration event
13.11.2026	RA5 Celebration event
04.12.2026	Christmas Fayre and Market
18.12.2026	Early finish option (13:15)

Home Learning

Reading at home is still such an important way to support your child's learning. Please encourage your child to read regularly at home and record this in their reading record log book, which will be checked weekly on a Wednesday. The school expectation is that this is completed *at least four times a week* - doing so will enter your child into the weekly prize draw! If any adults are able to volunteer any of their time to read with children during an afternoon, then please contact class teachers.

Times tables knowledge is an integral part of our mathematics in Year 5 and we would encourage the continued practise of these every week. Your child will still be able to access their TTRS account.

Snacks

The children are welcome to bring a **small fruit or vegetable snack** to enjoy — ideally with **no packaging**. Please also make sure your child has a **named water bottle** (*only containing water please.*)

A few reminders...

Berrywood Primary School is now a **smartphone-free school** for pupils. Children must not bring smartphones or internet-enabled personal devices (i.e. smartwatch) onto the school site at any time.

Class Dojo is a great way to stay connected with your child's class teacher. Whether you need to ask a quick question, request a meeting, or share something important that's happened at home, it's the perfect tool to keep us informed and working together to support your child. Should you have a concern about a matter that you would like to discuss further, please request a call or face to face meeting with the class teacher. We ask parents to be mindful of the impact their messages may have on our teaching staff as we all work together putting our pupils at the forefront of everything we do. Class teachers aim to respond to all messages withing 24 hours.

Eat Your Way Through the Past

Our first project this Autumn term is a history-based project called “*Eat Your Way Through the Past*”! Through this project, we will be exploring how and why the food we eat has changed over the last 1,000 years — a fascinating journey through time, culture, and taste! We will be comparing different historical eras, exploring lifestyles, key events, and significant time periods to understand why food has changed over time and the impact that technology has had on these developments. Later in the term, we will be using our teaching kitchen facilities to try cooking using rations, as would have been necessary in World War II.

This term we are also fortunate to have the ‘Young Shakespeare Company’ visiting Year 5 on 23rd September (more information to follow). They will be performing extracts from ‘Macbeth’ to the Year Group which will introduce this play that the children will continue to study in English. Our mathematics will begin with us learning about the composition of number, with a particular focus on larger numbers. In science this term, we will be exploring ‘Making New Substances’ and the children will be working practically, finding how new substances are made.

Maths

- Numbers and the number system (using numbers to 1 million)
- Addition and subtraction (compensation and calculation)
- Addition and subtraction (negative numbers)
- Addition and Subtraction (decimals)
- Addition and Subtraction (using equivalence to calculate)
- Measure – using measures and comparison to understand scaling

Science

- How are new substances made?
 - Definitions of state of matter revision.
 - Investigating making a new substance.
 - Reversible and Irreversible substances.
 - The indicators of new substances
- How and why do things move?
 - Revision of forces.
 - Water Resistance.
 - Air Resistance.
 - Friction.
 - How to reduce the amount of friction between surfaces.
 - Undulation and Interlocking forces.
 - Levers.

PE

- Outdoor: Football and Netball
- Indoor: Gymnastics and Dance

RE

- Umma
- Christmas Narrative

English

- Play-Scripts (Macbeth)
- Biographical writing
- Narratives
- Sustained ‘Write on’ tasks
- Let’s Think in English

Key Texts

- The Silver Sword
- The Clockwork Crow
- Macbeth excerpts
- Poetry by Joseph Coelho
- ‘The Piano’ (short film)

Art

- Drawing portraits

DT

- Textiles – making a Christmas bag
- Cooking from the past – rationed cakes!

Music

- Writing compositions

Computing

- Online Safety
- Coding
- Using Canva to make a poster to showcase history project

PDL

- Me and my relationships
- Valuing differences
- Rights and Respect

History

- Food through the ages from 1066 to current day

Finally, we would like to thank you in advance for your support. We are really looking forward to an exciting year of learning and discovery and can’t wait to work closely with you and your child to make Year 5 a truly memorable experience!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Wilkie, Miss Merrell, Miss Adams, Mrs Brown and Miss Grogan