

Bowling Park Primary School

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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Year 5 Spring 1 newsletter!

We hope you all had a restful break. We've got an exciting few weeks ahead with plenty of cross-curricular links to spark curiosity and deepen understanding.



This half term, our **Geography** focus will be on **Oceans**. We'll explore the names and locations of the world's oceans, their importance to life on Earth, and how they influence climate and ecosystems. Children will also learn about ocean currents, marine biodiversity, and the impact of human activity on our seas. This topic will encourage awareness and environmental responsibility.

This half term in English, we will be **exploring narrative writing** through the theme of *The Lost Whale*. Children will imagine discovering a whale washed up near their town and write a story about how they, their friends, or family try to help it. They will consider the emotions involved, the challenges faced, and the surprising adventures that might unfold. This unit will help develop descriptive language, characterisation, and plot structure while encouraging empathy and imaginative thinking.



In maths, we'll continue building on our understanding of **multiplication and division**, with the **focus on multiplying and dividing 3- and 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers**. Children will learn formal written methods such as long multiplication and long division, apply these to multi-step problems, and explore the relationship between factors, multiples, and prime numbers. Reasoning and problem-solving will remain a key focus as we deepen fluency and accuracy.

Our science topic this half term is **Mixing and Separating**. We'll investigate different mixtures and learn methods to separate them, such as filtration, sieving, and evaporation. Children will carry out practical experiments and develop their understanding of reversible and irreversible changes.

This half term in DT, we will be focusing on **textiles and sewing**. Children will design and create their own **stuffed underwater animals**, learning key skills such as stitching and joining fabrics. To celebrate their work and raise awareness about **pollution in our oceans**, we will host a **puppet-style exhibition** featuring these handmade creatures. This project will combine creativity with an important environmental message.



Home learning expectations

Please take some time to look at the following table to see what your child should be doing at home to extend their learning:

Activity/Task	Frequency
Reading their book band book	X3 a week
TT Rockstar - Soundcheck	Daily – for 10 minutes
Spelling Shed	Daily - for 5 minutes

You should already have your Spelling Shed and TTRockstars logins, but please let us know if you are having any problems accessing this at home. Please also make sure you are trying your best to read at home: even if it's just two pages each night.

Family Homework Challenge

- Using recyclable materials from around the house (cereal boxes, cardboard, kitchen roll tubes, foil, string, etc.), **create a 3D model of an ocean habitat**. Think about including features such as coral reefs, fish, and other marine creatures. Be as creative as you like!

Thank you!

The Year Five team