

Curriculum Overview for Year 5 – Autumn 1, 2026

Literacy:

Our first whole class text is *Oranges in No Man's Land*, by Elizabeth Laird. It explores the conflict during the Lebanese civil war. Reading at school includes: reading a whole class text, daily comprehension (including a weekly Big Picture Quiz), independent reading and Book Club. In writing lessons, our first text type is setting descriptions where we will be revising expanded noun phrases. We will then be moving on to recounts (diary entries) and thinking about how to use brackets. Alongside this, we have daily handwriting and spelling lessons.

Science:

Our science topic this half term is *Forces*. We will be exploring the science behind gravity and how unsupported objects fall towards the Earth, identifying the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces, recognising that some mechanisms including levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Art:

We are starting our art lessons with a mini project all about our class tree. Then we will be exploring typography and maps. We will discover how we can create typography through drawing and design, and use our skills to create personal and highly visual maps.

PSHE:

We will begin the year by looking at our whole school text, *The Wonder* by Tom Percival and reflect on what sparks joy in our lives. For the rest of the term, we will be base our circle time sessions on the theme 'me and my relationships'.

Benin Kingdom

Main foundation subject link:

History

See Knowledge Organiser for more details

Guiding Question:

What was the Benin Kingdom's greatest achievement?

Key Experience:

This half term, we will be visiting the British Museum to look at the Benin Bronzes as part of our history topic. Details will be confirmed soon.

PE:

Our PE topics this half term are tennis and dodgeball. PE is taught by specialise coaches and class teachers. Our PE days are Thursdays and Fridays. Please ensure your child is wearing suitable clothing and shoes for outdoor play and PE every day. They must have a named water bottle every day.

Spanish:

We will develop our vocabulary around food and drink.

Maths:

This term, we will begin maths with place value. We will be: working with numbers up to 1,000,000, finding more/less than 10 to 100,000, multiplying/dividing by the power of 10, partitioning, comparing, ordering and rounding. Later in the half term, we will move on to addition and subtraction. We will be: working on mental strategies, adding and subtracting whole numbers, rounding to help us check our answers and working on multi-step calculations. Although the Multiplication Tables Check was last year, children should regularly access TTRS to increase their speed and fluency. We will continue with daily times tables quizzes as well as weekly arithmetic quizzes.

RE:

Our study this half term is Islam. We will first learn about Ramadan - a time to focus on being a good Muslim and those who have less. We'll also learn about fasting and worship during this time. We'll learn about other important dates in the Islamic calendar and how they are marked and celebrated.

Music:

In Year 5, we begin guitar lessons. We will have weekly lessons with a specialist teacher every Tuesday afternoon. Our focus artist for the term is William Byrd and our genre is classical music with a focus on music from the Elizabethan England era. Our daily Active Listening sessions will focus on short activities surrounding our artist of the term.

Home Learning:

Reading: Children should read for at least 20 minutes daily (both with an adult and independently) and record it (independently) in their Reading Record with a comment at least 3x a week. Children can change their book on any day, as often as they need to. Children should bring their records every day to school. Reading Records are checked every Friday.

Spelling: Spelling homework will be set and due each Friday via Seesaw. Please submit one photo of handwritten spelling homework each week. Spelling quizzes take place each Friday at school.

Maths (times tables): Children should continue to practise their times tables via Times Table Rock Starts (TTRS) daily. We recommend 5 minutes daily to aid with long term recall. We encourage children to explore all areas of this platform, however, they need to practise their 5 minutes in the 'Garage' area for their homework to count.