



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 5

Autumn 2nd Half Term: November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing half term and that children are refreshed and looking forward to an exciting half term ahead!

Please refer to the table below, for a brief overview of the learning experiences that the children will have in each subject, during this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	Our focus text this half term is 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. We will be using this to explore the use of language and how to write stories with an underlying message. Our punctuation and grammar focus this half term is on using punctuation correctly in our writing. We will revise using apostrophes of contraction and possession along with punctuating direct speech. We will also look at using hyphens, semi-colons and using different ways to punctuate parenthesis. We will be continuing to work on the skills of proofreading to improve writing and spelling. We will also be continuing to focus on neat cursive handwriting.
Reading	We will be continuing to use the reciprocal reading strategies: predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising to support reading. Children will continue to benefit from reading comprehension practice and there will be opportunities for children to discuss books they have read. Children will continue to access reading books in school and should be bringing reading books to and from school each day. Children will access accelerated reader and can search the app for any titles they have read at home so they can complete quizzes on these. They will have opportunities to complete the quizzes on these books in school. Please continue to encourage children to read with you at home so they have the opportunity to use the fab four reciprocal reading strategies at home as well. In addition, I will be asking children to write four sentences in a reading record each week demonstrating the reciprocal reading strategies for the book they are currently reading. They will make a prediction, ask a question about what they have read, clarify a word or idea and write a short summary each week.
Maths	In Maths this half term we will start by exploring factors, prime, square and cubed numbers. We will revise multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 before moving onto equivalent fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers. We will be building up to adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Children will continue our weekly arithmetic practice to increase confidence in using the arithmetic methods.
Science	Our Science Topic in Y5 is Properties and Uses of Materials. This is a Chemistry topic in which we will compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets. We will think about reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic.

Computing	Computing this term will focus on coding. We will be looking at coding efficiently and simulating a physical system. Children will learn what decomposition and abstraction are in Computer Science and begin to understand what a function is and how functions work in code. We will also begin to look at text variables and strings in coding.
Geography	In Geography this half term, we will be exploring our new topic 'Mountains'. We will begin by describing what a mountain is and how they are formed. We will then look at the climate of mountainous regions and move onto exploring the UK's highest mountains. We will complete our unit by learning about the importance of the Himalayas.
PHSCE	In PSHCE this half term we will be 'Celebrating Difference'. Children will begin to understand that cultural differences can sometimes cause conflict and will be helped to further understand what racism is. Children will learn about different types of bullying, including how name-calling and spreading rumours can be bullying behaviours. They will explore strategies for managing situations that might involve bullying and will consider how to help if someone is being bullied.
Art	This half term children, will be exploring Typography, the visual art of creating and arranging letters and words on a page to help communicate ideas or emotions. We will start by looking at the work of Louise Fili a pioneer as a woman establishing herself working in Typography. They will go onto create their own letters using cutting and collage before designing their own letters inspired by objects around them.
RE	This half term in RE we will be exploring the big question 'How Can Following God Bring Freedom and Justice?'. We will be looking at the story of Moses and the Exodus and connecting this with concepts of freedom and salvation. We will look at how some Christians put their beliefs about how they should behave as people of God into practice by trying to bring freedom to others. Children will have an opportunity to identify ideas about freedom and justice that arise from the Bible texts and discuss how far these are helpful or inspiring and justify their opinions.
Music	In Music this half term we will be starting with some background work for our trip to the London Symphony Orchestra concert. We will continue our focus on rhythm and form as well as learning a new song which will be part of the concert. After the concert, we will be focusing on learning the songs for the Junior Christmas Production. Our focus will be on self-correcting if lost or out of time and singing expressively, with attention to breathing, phrasing, dynamics and articulation.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to be set on Google Classroom. It will consist of an English, Topic or Reading activity as well as a Maths related activity. It will be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and turned in by the following **Tuesday**. A photo can be taken of the learning and then uploaded and submitted to Google Classroom.

In addition to these home learning tasks, we recommend that children also engage with TT Rockstars on a regular basis. Please let a member of the Year 5 team know, if you need any help accessing these platforms.

Spellings

As mentioned in an email sent on Monday 4th November, we are excited to be launching a new spelling scheme this half term, called Spelling Shed. It is research-backed and comes highly recommended. Evidence-based research has shown that memorising lists of spellings is not beneficial and children often find it hard to apply these to their everyday written work. For this reason, **children will no longer be set weekly spelling lists to memorise and then be tested on.**

Instead, children will be set online spelling 'assignments' each week, which will link to the teaching and learning in class of specific words and spelling rules. Your child will be coming home with login details for Spelling Shed this week. Please refer to the email sent for more information. We hope your child enjoys using Spelling Shed.

Reading

One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning is to ensure that they engage with 10-15 minutes reading every day. It is really helpful if you can take some time to read

with your child and discuss what they have read. Whilst reading, encourage your child to make predictions and ask questions about the text. Try to help them identify and clarify words or phrases that they are unsure about and encourage them to summarise a paragraph or page that they have just read. This will support them to write their four sentences in their reading record each week and help to support their developing comprehension skills. It is also beneficial to read aloud to your children. When your child finishes reading a book, they will have the opportunity to complete an Accelerated Reader quiz at school. Please encourage children to hand in their reading records once a week to ensure we can review these in class and share the half-termly quiz scores.

P.E.

This year, our PE days will be every **Monday** and **Friday**. Our coached PE sessions with Mr Kerr will take place on a Friday. The class will also have a teacher lead PE session on a Monday. On these days, children will need to **come in to school wearing their PE kit**. This should consist of their school PE t-shirt, jogging bottoms/PE shorts and trainers (not plimsolls, due to possible wet weather). Please also ensure that any long hair is tied back for all PE lessons.

What does my child need in school?

- As the weather is often unpredictable, please ensure your child is wearing layers as the classroom windows will remain open for ventilation throughout the year. Please bear this in mind as the weather starts to get colder. Children should bring a rainproof coat every day.
- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle (water fountains are still not in use)
- Children may use a small backpack or plastic bag if they'd like to bring anything in. Please make sure that this is not too big to avoid hazards in the cloakroom.
- Children can bring in school book bags if they have them.
- Your child will need a pencil case containing pencils, handwriting pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils, small glue stick. Please can you ensure this is able to **fit into their tray** as large pencil cases on desks make it difficult for children to concentrate on their work and can leave very little room for exercise books.
- Children may bring a small packet of tissues, and **we also ask for any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom**.
- Please replenish handwriting pens, pencils and glue sticks as the term goes on.

Please name or distinguish any equipment brought from home. Children often have the same pens or felt tips and it is impossible to reunite lost articles with their owners if these are not named, which can cause distress.

If you have any questions, please contact the class team via the School Office email.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Haggan and the Year 5 team