



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 5

Spring 1st Half Term: January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Year 5 team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the gifts we received we were really touched by your generosity. We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas holiday 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	<p>Our focus text this half term is Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. We will be using this to enhance our inference and prediction skills; focusing on poetry to write a free verse poem and writing a script to perform on the sets we will be making in Art this half term.</p> <p>Our punctuation and grammar focus this half term is continuing 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 working on the skills of proofreading to improve writing and spelling. We will also be continuing to focus on neat cursive handwriting.</p> <p>Our spelling will continue to be taught both in class and with a new word list on Spelling Shed to practise as home learning. If children would like to improve their spelling further the Mastery Zone on spelling shed is a great tool to identify and fill in any gaps in knowledge of spelling rules.</p>
Reading	<p>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 with a focus on how to answer reading comprehension questions effectively. There will be opportunities for children to discuss books they have read and recommend books to each other. 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 as well as at home. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term we will be looking at written methods of multiplication and division (including remainders). We will start to multiply fractions by whole numbers, revise finding fractions of amounts, using fractions as operators and start looking at equivalent fractions and decimals. Children will continue our weekly arithmetic practice to increase confidence in using the arithmetic methods.</p>

Science	In Science this half-term, we will be learning about Earth and Space. In this module, children will learn to: describe the movement of the Earth and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system. We will describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth and describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies. We will also be using the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky. Children will learn about the methods scientists use to build and communicate scientific knowledge. They will learn that scientists use evidence to develop and model explanations that change over time in response to new evidence and ideas. They will develop an understanding of the following types of enquiry: observing change over time, pattern seeking, research using secondary sources of information.
Computing	Computing this half term will focus on using spreadsheets. Children will start to use 2Calculate, the spreadsheet tool in Purple Mash, to create formulae to solve everyday problems. We will also explore using the count tool to help analyse data in a spreadsheet.
History	In History this half term, we will begin to explore our new topic 'Zulu Kingdom'. We will begin by understanding where the Zulu Kingdom is in history and learn about what the Zulus were known for. We will then look critically at sources and make connections between the Zulu Kingdom and British history.
PHSCE	In PSHCE this half term we will be thinking about dreams and goals. Children will have the opportunity to explore some of their dreams and explore a range of career paths and how these can contribute to society. We will also discuss what we would need to do to help us achieve our dreams and goals. Finally, we will link this with our learning about different cultures from last half term.
Art	This half term children, will be exploring theatre set design. We will start by looking at the work of Rae Smith a set designer working in theatre. They will go onto design their own set using the magical woods from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as a stimulus. Then they will make a model of this, on which they will create characters to perform their script. Children will need to bring in a shoebox sized cardboard box in which to create their set. These can be brought in named at any time during the first 2 weeks of the half term.
RE	This half term in RE we will be exploring the big question 'What does the Quran reveal to Muslims about Allah and his guidance?'. We will be learning how the Qur'an is treated by Muslims with great respect because it is believed to be Allah's final revelation. Children will recount the story from cave Hira where the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammed and understand the words of the Qur'an are the actual words of Allah received over a period of time by the Prophet Muhammad through the Angel Jibreel (Gabriel). We will increase our understanding through looking at examples of the teachings of the Qur'an. Seeing that it reveals what God is like and how to live; in addition to talking about the importance to Muslims of memorising the words.
Music	In Music this half term we will be taking part in whole class ensemble tuition for Djembe (West African Drums). This will be led by a specialist Djembe teacher provided by the Barnet Education Arts Trust. Djembe lessons will take place over a period of ten weeks throughout the Spring Term and we will be inviting parents to experience a demonstration of what the children have learnt towards the end of the Spring term.

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, there will be spellings on Spelling shed which will renew each Monday. Children should complete 5 games of the assigned spellings each week.

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

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 the home-school 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 complete and hand in their reading records once a week to ensure we can review these in class.

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.
- 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