



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2

Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 5

Spring 1 Half Term: January 2026

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! We are very much looking forward to our Djembe lessons this term led by a specialist teacher.

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>This term we will be exploring the incredible, motivational text '<i>The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse</i>' by Charlie Mackesy. We will be delving into characters and story mapping. Our writing this term will focus on writing a blog about 'My Journey Home' and also writing a motivational story in the style of the book.</p> <p>There will continue to be a focus on grammar and punctuation skills which will include exploring and expanding our vocabulary, revisiting subordinate clauses and relative clauses. We will also recap some punctuation by revisiting brackets, dashes and commas. Children will also be learning about apostrophes and using inverted commas. We will continue our focus on editing and improving our writing by including learnt punctuation and thinking about how we can use this to make meaningful and relevant changes.</p>
Reading	<p>Alongside <i>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse</i>, we will be reading '<i>Running on the Roof of the World</i>' in our guided reading lessons. This story explores themes of freedom, oppression, friendship and bravery, as well as the importance of cultural identity, and focuses on the plight of refugees. Children will use this stimulus as a platform to learn the 'Fab Four'.</p>
Maths	<p>This term, Year 5 will continue their learning on fractions, focusing on adding and subtracting fractions, including calculations involving mixed numbers. After this, we will begin a new unit on multiplication and division. Children will develop their written calculation skills, starting with multiplying 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers and progressing towards multiplying 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. They will also solve multi-step reasoning problems and apply short division methods, including dividing 4-digit numbers by 1-digit.</p> <p>As pupils are now familiar with more of the content covered in arithmetic assessments, arithmetic practice will take place weekly on Wednesdays. This will give children regular opportunities to strengthen their arithmetic fluency and practise these essential skills in a variety of formats.</p> <p>Multiplication and division continue to play a crucial role in Year 5 maths. We encourage children to continue practising these skills at home where possible, to support confidence, accuracy and efficiency in their calculations.</p>
Science	<p>The Science topic this half term is Earth and Space. The children will learn to: describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system and describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth. They will describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies and use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.</p>

Computing	Computing this term will focus on teaching the children about spreadsheets. This will include learning how to use formulae, exploring probability, computational modelling, testing hypotheses, and converting measurements.
History	<p>Our learning in History this term is the exciting unit all about 'The Zulu Kingdom'. This unit will run across this half term and the next half term.</p> <p>This half term, children will look at the overlap between the Victorian period and the Zulu kingdom and using historical skill to explore a range of artefacts from these periods. They will also be thinking about the chronology of the time period and using overlapping timelines to show where this fits in. Children will explore what the Zulu's were known for and thinking about how the Zulu Kingdom and Britain are linked.</p>
PHSE	This term, we will be continuing our topic on celebrating differences, where the children will explore their understanding of racism, as well as the impact of rumours and bullying behaviour.
Art	In art this term, we are exploring typography and maps. We will explore the work of artists such as Louis Fili and Greyson Perry. We will look at what typography is and exploring cut out typography. We will also look at maps and messages within maps. Linking with our English text, 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse', our art piece will tie these together and we will be using our typography and map skills to recreate a map of 'the Boy's' journey home.
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 be set on a **Wednesday** and needs to be completed and turned in by **Tuesday**.

In addition to these home learning tasks, we recommend that children also engage with TT Rockstars and Times table games on Purple Mash, on a regular basis. Please let a member of the Year 5 team know, if you need any help accessing these platforms. Children will receive weekly spelling lists to learn via Spelling Shed. In addition, we will deliver in-class lessons to help children practise writing these words. Occasionally, paper-based spelling homework will be provided alongside the online activities. **Please note that although we will look at all home learning, we will not always comment unless necessary. We will go over any common mistakes or things we find tricky in class. I may return your work so you know I have looked at it.**

### **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, it would be great if you could 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 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. The children will keep a reading record (paper copy) in school, on which they will record the book titles they are reading, a brief comment and any 'Accelerated Reader' quiz scores that they achieve.

### **P.E.**

Year 5 PE days are: **Thursday and Friday**

We will continue to have a coached PE session on Friday. The class will also have PE on a Wednesday. 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.

- Named school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle
- Children may bring a bag to school. Please make sure that this is not too big to avoid hazards in the cloakroom
- Your child will need a small plastic/metal pencil case containing pencils, handwriting pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils, small glue stick. All equipment should be able to fit inside children's trays.
- Small packet of tissues for your child to keep in their trays. We also kindly ask for any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom.
- Please replenish handwriting pens, pencils and in particular, glue sticks
- **Children should not be bringing in toys/bits and pieces from home to keep in their trays or in their bags. In particular fidget toys. Please refrain from bringing personal items to school. Please encourage your children to leave such items at home and not in their pencil cases or bags.**

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

Many thanks for your continued support.

Philippa Georgiou and Andrew Sturgess