



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2

Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Spring 2 Half Term: February 2026

Dear Y5 Parents/Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable and restful half term break. We have many exciting things happening this term. Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play the Djembe and we will be continuing with our weekly drumming lessons. Towards the end of term, we will be inviting you to watch the 'final performance' which is an opportunity for us to showcase the fantastic learning which has happened this term. More information to follow. We are also very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day which will be taking place in early March.

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 reading Louis Sachar's, 'There's a Boy in the Girl's bathroom'. We will be exploring the text and its characters in some detail and be thinking about using and gathering evidence to support our analysis. We will be summarising chapters and exploring vocabulary. We will also be writing a diary and have an opportunity to write our very own 'I am poem'. Children will also have the opportunity to include the grammar which they have learnt so far whilst also recapping work on adverbial phrases, relative pronouns apostrophes and commas.</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. The Year 3 and 4 word lists have also been set and will remain available until the end of the year. This will give children the opportunity to practise these words as an optional activity, which they can access at any time.</p>
Reading	<p>We will continue to read daily and take accelerated reader quizzes. We will also be focussing on our reading comprehension skills and looking at selecting and using appropriate evidence, using our inference and deduction skills. Reciprocal reading will remain a focus when approaching our class text. Children will reinforce their 'fab four' reading strategies: summarise, predict, question and clarify.</p> <p>We will also be looking at quick comprehension activities to boost our skills in this area which includes ways to approach and answer comprehension style questions.</p>
Maths	<p>This term, our maths learning will begin with a focus on fractions. We will be learning how to multiply fractions and calculate fractions of amounts. We will then move on to decimals and percentages. Children will explore equivalent fractions and decimals before learning how to compare, order and round decimals. We will also make links between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages to deepen understanding.</p> <p>Arithmetic will continue to be a weekly part of our maths lessons. This gives children regular opportunities to practise key skills they have previously learned, as well as those they are currently developing. It also allows them to apply these skills in different contexts, building fluency and giving them time each week to refine and strengthen their understanding.</p>

Science	This half term we are looking at 'Plant and Life Cycles'. This term we will be learning that all living things have a life cycle which includes growth and reproduction, eventually ending in death and decay.
Computing	Computing this term will focus on teaching the children the process of creating games. They will have the opportunity to plan, design, publish and evaluate their own quest game.
History	Our learning in History this term is the continuation of our learning about The Zulu Kingdom. Our learning in History this term is continuing the exciting unit all about 'The Zulu Kingdom'. This half term, children will continue to look at the overlap between the Victorian period and the Zulu kingdom there will also be a focus on using historical skill to understand different perspectives of history, learning about traditional Zulu vs modern culture and the impact which The Zulu Kingdom had on Britain and South Africa.
PHSE	This term, the children will explore their future aspirations through the topic Dreams and Goals. They will learn about different careers and ambitions, and how these can vary across cultures.
DT	Linking to our music learning, we will be designing and making an African inspired percussion instruments. Children will be thinking about the entire design process from start to finish. We will also evaluate our final product.
RE	This half term in RE we will be exploring the big question 'What is the great significance of the 'Eucharist' to Christians?'. We will think about thankfulness and thanksgiving before exploring the narrative about the Last Supper on which the Eucharist is based. We will look at the Anglican Eucharist service and why Christians believe it is important to 'give thanks'.
Music	In Music this half term we will be continuing our 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. We look forward to inviting parents to experience a demonstration of what the children have learnt towards the end of the 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 Thursday. 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