



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## KS2 - Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 5

Summer 1 Half Term: April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you have had an enjoyable Easter break. We have many exciting things happening this term in our learning. We will also be working to prepare our traditional Mayday festivities for presentation at the end of the half-term. We are also looking forward to our school residential visit to Cuffley Camp later on this term.

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 in English we will be exploring the fantastic text- 'Journey to Jo'berg' by Beverley Naidoo. Here we will get a glimpse of life of two children during Apartheid in South Africa. As part of their learning, children will be researching and exploring the historical context to gain a deeper understanding of life during this time. Our writing this term will rely on our research which will be completed a part of our home learning. We will use this to write a non-chronological report all about Apartheid in South Africa. As part of their grammar learning, children will be recapping their learning on modal verbs, prepositions, pronouns and different word classes. They will also be exploring using slow writing to write a detailed setting description which includes verbs, metaphors a variety of sentence lengths and synonyms.</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 such as finding and selecting appropriate evidence and at our fab four reading strategies. We will be looking at summarising a text through story mapping as well as delving deep into vocabulary and looking at analysing characters. We will also be exploring historical context and learning about the author and how this shapes the text and its meaning.</p>
Maths	<p>This term, children will develop their understanding of key mathematical concepts, with arithmetic forming a core part of their learning each week. Children will build confidence in working with decimals and percentages, including rounding numbers and converting between fractions, decimals and percentages. They will also learn to calculate perimeter and area, progressing from simple shapes to more complex compound shapes, as well as estimating measurements. In addition, children will develop their skills in interpreting data by drawing and reading line graphs, and working with tables, including two-way tables and timetables.</p>
Science	<p>This term we our topic is separating mixtures and changing materials.</p> <p>Children will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that some materials dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution</li> <li>to use knowledge of solids, liquids, and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating</li> <li>to demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes</li> <li>to explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning.</li> </ul>

Computing	This unit introduces pupils to 3D modelling using the 2Design and Make tool, where they learn to create, edit, and refine digital 3D designs before producing a physical model, including exploring how designs can be printed and made in real life.
Geography	Our geography learning will span over the entire summer term. We will be looking at the exciting topic- 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. The learning this half term will focus on looking at the Earth and exploring tectonic plates and what happens when these plates meet and collide. Children will also be learning about what goes on inside a volcano and how earthquakes affect people and places.
PHSE	This unit helps pupils understand how to keep their bodies and minds healthy, exploring topics such as physical wellbeing, healthy choices, and how to manage risks to support a balanced lifestyle.
DT	In DT this half-term we will be completing our African drums from last half term. We will then move on to exploring Chinese inventions and designing and building our own model kites.
RE	This half term in RE we will be building on our knowledge of Sikhism. We will be exploring the big question 'How does the teaching of the Gurus move Sikhs from dark to light?'. We will think about what makes a great teacher before exploring what Guru Nanak wanted people to learn. We will consider how this teaching helps Sikhs to move from dark to light and why it is important to listen to the right people in life.
Music	In Music this half term we will be focusing on our preparations for Mayday. Through this, children will learn to respond to a leader or conductor. They will rehearse and present a performance for an audience; performing from memory with confidence and accuracy.

### **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