Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Year 5 Half Term Curriculum Plan - Home Learning Letter

Autumn 2nd Half Term – November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope the children have had an enjoyable half term break. We are so pleased with how they have settled into Year 5 and are looking forward to the very busy weeks ahead. We are also looking forward to our Shakespeare workshop and all the exciting activities as we approach the Christmas holidays.

We have a very exciting unit coming up in art where children will be designing and creating their own set design. 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 3 weeks of the half 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	This term we will be reading our Shakespeare text 'Twelfth Night'. We will be looking at and unpicking some Shakespearean language. We will be writing and performing an internal monologue. We will make our own mini theatre and perform them using puppets. We will be recapping previous learning on adverbial phrases and fronted adverbials as well as looking at punctuation for parenthesis. We will also be learning about relative clauses, expanded noun phrases, figurative language and subordinate conjunctions. We also look forward to our 'Twelfth Night' workshop on our Focus text which will immerse and enrich the learning of the children.
Reading	Our reading focus this term will continue with our accelerated reader quizzes. When approaching our new class text, we will apply our 'fab four' reciprocal reading strategies: predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising. As we are studying Shakespeare, our reading focus this term will be focus on historical context of the original Shakespeare play and how this shapes the meaning and our understanding of the text. We will also be reading aloud and performing our monologues on our stage set which we will be creating.
Maths	In Maths this term, Year 5 pupils will be deepening their understanding of fractions, factors, and multiples. They will learn to identify and write equivalent fractions, compare and order fractions with related denominators, and convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions. Children will also practise adding and subtracting fractions with the same or related denominators and apply these skills to solve problems in different contexts. In addition, they will explore common factors, common multiples, and prime numbers, helping them recognise patterns and relationships between numbers. This learning will strengthen their overall number fluency and prepare them for more advanced concepts in upper Key Stage 2. Arithmetic will continue to be an essential part of the children's maths learning and weekly arithmetic sessions will routinely feature as part of the children's learning.
Science	This half term, the Y5 children will learn to 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. They will also give reasons, based on evidence from

	comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. It will be another half term involving lots of practical experiments which we know the children will not only enjoy but learn a lot from it.
Computing	In Computing this term, we will be developing our coding skills and learning how to program efficiently. Children will explore how to simulate physical systems using code and understand important concepts such as decomposition (breaking problems into smaller parts) and abstraction (focusing on key details). We'll also be learning about friction and functions, as well as introducing strings, text variables, and concatenation – all of which help children create more complex and creative programs. We will also continue our online safety unit which runs throughout the autumn term. This focuses on 'managing online information' and explores topics such as stereotypes, fake news and hoaxes.
Art	This half term, children will be exploring theatre set design. We will begin by looking at the work of Rae Smith, a professional set designer working in theatre. Using our English text, 'Twelfth Night', as inspiration, children will go on to design their own theatre set. Throughout the project, they will have the opportunity to draw, build, and paint, and by the end of the unit, they will create a dramatic and atmospheric model set complete with characters to perform their own script. To support this project, children will need to bring in a shoebox-sized cardboard box to use as the base for their set. Boxes should be named and brought in during the first Three weeks of the half term. This will be on Google Classrooms- please look out for this.
Geography	Our Geography learning this term is all about 'mountains'. We will be looking at the definition of a mountain, the different types of mountains and how they are formed. Children will also look at what it is like on a mountain and what it is like to live on a mountain. We will also have a look at the UK's highest mountains.
PHSCE	We're excited to relaunch the Zones of Regulation! This program helps children learn how to understand and manage their feelings, stay calm, and make positive choices throughout the day. Later on in the term, we will be exploring a range of important themes that help children understand themselves and others. Our learning will include celebrating different cultures, understanding and challenging racism, and discussing the effects of rumours and name-calling. We will also look at the different types of bullying and ways to respond safely and respectfully. In addition, we'll be exploring the question "Does money matter?" to help children think about fairness and values. Throughout the term, we will focus on celebrating differences across the world and recognising what makes each of us unique and special.
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.
PE	Our first unit of learning this term is entitled we will then be moving on to our second unit, 'Game sense invasion'. This unit will challenge children to refine their attacking skills. Children will have a clear understanding of when, where and why they apply these skills during a game. They will be able to develop tactics for both attacking and defending and apply these successfully within their team. Challenging Collaboration'. This unit of work will enable children to develop and apply effective collaboration skills when working as part of a team. Throughout the unit, pupils will develop an understanding of what makes an effective team and be able to apply this understanding in a range of challenges.
Music	Our Music learning this half term will focus on learning the songs for the Christmas production which will be happening at the end of 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 regularly 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 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: Wednesday and 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***
- Thank you for your support with keeping squishies/ toys at home. As always, children **should not** be bringing in toys/bits and pieces from home to keep in their trays or in their bags. 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 Amy Millan