

Year 5 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

Rivers and Settlements



This leaflet aims to give you information on the curriculum the children will be covering during the Autumn term.

English

As readers, they will continue to develop their reading fluency and strengthen their vocabulary skills by using contextual clues and working with dictionaries and thesauruses.

In guided reading lessons, they will be exposed to a wide range of texts, including fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction, and reference books. Where possible, they will make cross-curricular links to deepen their understanding.

This term, they will enjoy a rich variety of books during our daily read-aloud sessions, helping to foster a love of reading and broaden their experience of different genres and styles. We will explore:

- ✓ Myths and Legends: Robin Hood by Roger Lancelyn Green
- ✓ Poetry: 'A Poem for Every Day of The Year', Chosen by Paul Cookson
- ✓ Fairy tales: 'Straw Into Gold' by Hilary McKay
- ✓ Fantasy : Fable House by E L Norry

As writers, they will build on their existing grammar and punctuation knowledge, developing a clear understanding of audience and purpose. They will explore a variety of exciting texts and writing styles:

- ✓ Explanation Texts: Pupils will learn how to write clear and informative explanations, starting with rivers and innovating with a piece on the River Severn. They will then invent their own text on water cleaning, linking to geography and science.
- ✓ Poetry: Children will study Water Dance, using personification to bring nature to life, and explore Kennings, inventing their own based on an Anglo-Saxon warrior.
- ✓ Narrative: Through King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, pupils will dive into myths and legends, focusing on setting in a finding tale. They will innovate by writing a new chapter as a sequel and invent their own story based on a Viking invasion, linking to history.

These units will develop creativity, vocabulary and cross-curricular connections while strengthening key writing skills.

Spellings will continue to be taught through whole-class lessons, following national curriculum expectations.

Maths

Across the school, maths is structured using the NCETM programme, aligned with the DfE's Ready to Progress criteria (2018). They will continue to learn through the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach, ensuring a secure understanding of mathematical concepts before moving to more abstract representations. Bar modelling and part-whole models will be used to support problem-solving.

As mathematicians, they will deepen their understanding of number and calculation through a range of key concepts:

- ✓ Decimals and Place Value: Exploring tenths and hundredths as parts of a whole, composing and calculating with decimals using column addition and subtraction.
- ✓ Problem Solving: Applying knowledge of decimals in real-life contexts such as length and money, using efficient strategies to calculate with money.
- ✓ Negative Numbers: Understanding and working with numbers below zero.
- ✓ Multiplication and Division: Multiplying three or more numbers, using partitioning strategies leading to short multiplication (2-digit by 1-digit), and progressing to short division.

These units will help pupils build fluency, accuracy and confidence in applying mathematical strategies to everyday situations.

They will be expected to recall and use multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 , including related facts such as 2×3 , 20×30 , and 0.2×3 .

Geography & History

As historians, they will deepen their understanding of the transition from the Roman Empire to the Anglo-Saxon and Scots settlements. They will then explore the struggle for England between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. They will build on their enquiry skills, using primary and secondary sources and considering bias in historical accounts.

They will investigate the use of the Somerset Levels over time, including how the Anglo-Saxons crossed the Levels using the ancient Sweet Track.

As geographers, they will name and locate rivers, developing their map-reading skills. They will revisit the water cycle and their visit to the Wessex Water Treatment Centre will support their understanding of how water is cleaned and used in daily life.

Science

As scientists, they will learn about materials by comparing and classifying them based on their properties. They will use and understand scientific vocabulary such as hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal). They will conduct experiments to explore the properties of solids, liquids and gases, and consider how these materials are used in everyday life.

Art & Design Technology

As designers, they will develop functional products for themselves and others. They will use a variety of materials to create a river sculpture, inspired by the work of Michelle Reader and evaluate its effectiveness based on a set of design criteria. Their sculpture will incorporate a working 'cams' mechanism, allowing it to move as part of the design.

Textiles: They will practise sewing and decorative techniques to design and make a Christmas card using Binca.

Binca is a stiff, open-weave fabric with evenly spaced holes, making it perfect for beginners to learn sewing and embroidery.

Music

As musicians, Year 5 will explore the key ingredients that make up a song: rhythm, melody, harmony, and lyrics. They will learn to sing rounds and part songs such as School Is Nearly Over and I Got A Little Dog, discovering how layers of melody combine to create a polyphonic texture. Pupils will listen to music from the past and present, including traditional songs like Frère Jacques and Three Country Dances in One, as well as contemporary pieces created using a loop pedal.

They will deepen their understanding of intervals, scales, and chords, and learn to notate pitches using staff and letter notation. Playing together as an ensemble remains a key focus, with pupils accompanying melodies using chords, drones, and basslines.

They will also explore the song writing process, learning how songs can reflect the time and place in which they were written and mark social or cultural occasions. Through creative activities, pupils may write their own song inspired by the structure of Take A Major Scale, compose a school jingle, or collaborate on a song celebrating their school community. In addition, they will learn and perform songs for Harvest and Christmas.

PE (Physical Education)

This term they will be looking at Invasion Games and Net/Wall games. This will involve learning the skills and tactics used in these games and experiencing small sided and simplified versions of these games. The focus will be on teamwork and fair play as well as improving skills of travel, sending, receiving, dodging, attacking and defending. They will have the opportunity to develop the skills they have previously learnt and put them into practice in match situations.

They will also be looking into game rules and competitions. They will begin to focus on their tactical thinking and decision making.

RE (Religious Education)

In RE, they will explore the question: "What do Christians believe about God and Incarnation?" Through discussion and enquiry, they will deepen their understanding of Christian beliefs, and be encouraged to ask thoughtful questions throughout the unit.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

In PSHE, they will explore the school values of resilience and friendship. They will discuss what it means to belong to a community and how to be global citizens.

Later in the term, they will focus on three key themes that help children understand and develop healthy relationships:

- ✓ Families and People Who Care for Us – exploring the different types of families and the importance of love, care and support.
- ✓ Respectful and Kind Relationships – learning how to treat others with kindness and respect in all situations.
- ✓ Caring Friendships – understanding what makes a good friend and how to build strong, positive friendships.

These lessons help children develop empathy, respect and the social skills they need to thrive both in and out of school.

Year 5 will also learn how their bodies change and grow, where they will learn about puberty and the process of menstruation.

Online Safety

This term, they will learn how to stay safe and make positive choices online. Our focus will be on two key themes:

- ✓ Privacy and Security – understanding why it's important to keep personal information private, how to create strong passwords and ways to protect themselves when using digital devices.
- ✓ Online Bullying – recognising what online bullying looks like, how it can affect others and what to do if they or someone they know experiences it.

These lessons help children build confidence and responsibility when using technology, ensuring they know how to stay safe and treat others with respect online.

French

In French we will use our speaking, listening, reading and writing to explore a variety of language structures. Grammar is the focus in our written tasks as we identify the similarities and differences between English and French.

We will build on prior knowledge from Year 4, to find out about starting school in France, use numbers to tell the time, food and drink, as well as Halloween, the Jour du Souvenir (Remembrance Day), in France.

Towards the end of term, we will focus on the traditions connected to St. Nicolas and Noël.

Computing & Online Safety

As computer experts, they will learn about computer systems and networks, including how search engines operate. They will develop their understanding of online safety, focusing on privacy, security and recognising and responding to online bullying.

In the second half of the term, they will use Scratch to program an Anglo-Saxon-themed quiz, applying their coding skills creatively. They will also discuss how to be kind and responsible online, engaging in class debates and discussions about digital citizenship.

By the end of the term, they will have gained practical experience in programming and a deeper understanding of how digital systems and online searches shape the way we access information.

Homework

They will receive weekly spellings, SPaG, and maths homework, alongside a half-termly topic homework menu. This menu will include six activities across subjects such as design and technology, art, maths, science, English and computing. An online safety and school values task will also be included.

They will be encouraged to complete at least two tasks, allowing them to engage with the topic creatively and showcase different talents. At the end of the term, they will present their homework in an exhibition-style format, sharing their work with peers.

Reading

It is essential that they read regularly. This doesn't always have to be their school reading book—reading a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry is equally valuable. Please ensure their reading record is completed and brought to school.