

# Year 5 Curriculum Overview

## Spring Term

### The Americas



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

#### English

As readers, they will continue to develop our reading fluency and deciphering new vocabulary through contextual cues and thesaurus/dictionary work.

In guided reading lessons, we are exposing the children to a wider range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books, where we capitalise on topics, making links where possible.

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. They will explore:

- ✓ Historical Fiction: *The Boy in the Smoke* by Rachel Fatauroti
- ✓ Mystery: *Indiana Bones* by Harry Heape
- ✓ Stories from Other Cultures: *Aya and the Starchaser* by Radiya Hafiza
- ✓ Biography: *Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay*

Through these sessions, they will develop their listening skills, vocabulary and comprehension, while discussing themes, characters and ideas. Our aim is to inspire curiosity and encourage pupils to discover new authors and genres they might enjoy.

As writers, they will develop their writing skills through a range of exciting genres and creative projects:

#### Non-Chronological Reports

They will research and write detailed reports on Animals of America, learning how to organise information clearly and use technical vocabulary. They will then innovate by creating a report about a new animal from a different region and invent a piece linked to geography: Mountains of America.

#### Narrative Writing

Inspired by *The Wolves of Currumpaw*, they will explore the story type Defeating the Monster Tale with a focus on characterisation. They will innovate by retelling an animal story from a different point of view and invent a science-linked narrative about habitats being ruined by plastic.

#### Blended Fairy Tales

Using *Shrek* as inspiration, they will study blended fairy tales with a focus on setting. They will innovate by mixing story types and perspectives, then invent their own blended fairy tale written in the first person, choosing a favourite fairy tale character.

#### Poetry

Finally, they will explore the art of concise expression by writing traditional Japanese Haiku poems. Throughout the term, they will refine their planning, drafting, and editing skills, while developing creativity and confidence as writers.

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

## **Maths**

As mathematicians, they will be developing fluency during morning sessions, focussing on multiplication and division, fractions, decimals and percentages. They will apply mental strategies to different concepts and will continue to use their tables facts to help them with calculations.

Our key areas of learning this term will be:

- ✓ As mathematicians, Year 5 will deepen their understanding of number and calculation through a range of challenging concepts.
- ✓ They will learn to calculate confidently with decimal fractions and explore factorisation, using common factors and multiples to solve calculations efficiently.
- ✓ Pupils will extend their work with fractions by multiplying proper fractions by whole numbers, as well as multiplying improper fractions by mixed numbers.
- ✓ They will also learn to find unit and non-unit fractions of whole numbers, developing their understanding of parts and wholes.
- ✓ Comparing fractions using equivalence and decimals will help them make connections between different representations of number.

These skills will be applied through problem-solving and reasoning activities, building fluency and confidence in preparation for more advanced mathematical ideas.

## **Times Tables**

In year 5, children are required to know their timetables up to 12 x 12, corresponding division facts and other associated facts such as, 2 x 3, 20 x 30, 0.2 x 3 etc.

## **Geography**

As geographers, they will be learning about the continent of the Americas and discovering how mountains are formed. They will compare the geographic features of the North West of the UK and the north West of the USA.

This will be used to help develop our map reading skills by locating countries, cities and key physical features. They will also be considering how these features may affect people's lives.

In addition to this, they will learn about the variety of biomes that exist in these areas of the world and how settlements impact the countries within them. They will learn about the economies of each region and how this impacts the peoples of each country.

## **PSHE**

In PSHE lessons, they will be focusing on our school values of Respect and Forgiveness. During PSHE sessions they will be covering the following topics: The Civic Award (budgeting); Being Safe and Online Safety and Awareness.

During Safety Week, they will learn how to stay safe in a variety of situations, both in the real world and online. Under the umbrellas of 'Being Safe' and 'Online Safety and Awareness', they will explore important themes to help them make sensible choices and manage risks.

Topics include:

- ✓ Water Safety: What happens to your body in cold water and how can 'Float to Live' save you?
- ✓ How can we stay safe near canals and waterways?
- ✓ Fire Safety: What should we do to prevent fires and keep ourselves safe inside and outside?
- ✓ What are drugs, why can some be harmful, and how can we say no?
- ✓ Managing Risks and Hazards: To learn how to assess hazards and manage risks independently.
- ✓ Safe Relationships – understanding the importance of boundaries and safe touch.

They will also take part in online safety activities, focusing on how to build positive online relationships, manage information responsibly, building a positive online reputation and how to protect their self-image and identity.

## **Science**

As scientists, they will be learning about living things and their habitats. They will explore the fascinating life cycles of a variety of animals, including mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds. They will also learn about the process of reproduction in both plants and animals, understanding how new life begins and develops. Through observation, discussion and research, they will deepen their knowledge of how living things grow and change.

## **Art and Design Technology**

As designers, they will be using sketchbooks to experiment with colour and composition. They will be generating ideas from the work of artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and William Morris. They will then complete some flower and plant painting using repeated patterns, using our research as inspiration.

Children will study the work of artists Georgia O'Keeffe and Maria van Oosterwijk, learning how these artists used colour, shape, and detail to create striking floral compositions. They will experiment with acrylic paints and techniques before exploring collage and discovering the vibrant, abstract work of Beatriz Milhazes. They will learn how to layer shapes, colours, and textures to create dynamic compositions and will design their own abstract flower- combining acrylic painting with collage inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's expressive style and Beatriz' exciting work.

They will then explore the world of pattern and design through both traditional and digital art forms. They will begin by studying the work of William Morris, learning how he used nature-inspired motifs to create beautiful repeated patterns in his textiles and wallpapers. They will practice drawing techniques to design their own motifs and experiment with arranging them into repeating patterns.

Building on this, they will move into digital art by creating vector drawings of their repeated patterns. They will learn how to use digital tools to replicate and manipulate shapes, colours and layouts - producing professional-looking designs that reflect the influence of William Morris while showcasing their own creativity.

Through this project, they will develop skills in observation, composition and digital design - combining traditional art techniques with modern technology.

## **PE**

This term the children will be looking at Gymnastics, Dance and Outdoor Adventurous Activities. In gymnastics they will be focusing on shapes, rolls, balances and jumps. They will learn the correct techniques and how to perform these safely both on the floor and on the gymnastics equipment. They will also be looking to create mini routines to show what they have learnt and their understanding. They will be encouraged to develop their routines based on previous knowledge and knowledge they may have from outside of school clubs.

In dance they will be looking to follow a set routine using 3 different dance genres. They will then begin to choreograph their own routines in small groups using one or all of the genres they have learnt. They will also be encouraged to use movements inspired by other genres.

In OAA they will further develop their map reading skills, orienteering and team work. They will continue to develop the skills they need to be a good leader and a good team member.

## **RE**

We will be studying Judaism this term and considering what Jewish people think about the covenant and the Torah. We will then use this information when studying Passover.

## **Music**

As musicians, they will explore music technology and composition using Soundtrap for Education. They will create foreboding music inspired by examples such as Scooby-Doo, experimenting with pitch, tempo, dynamics, and instrument choice. Pupils will add features like drones, chromatic scales, dissonance, and ostinatos, and use beatmaker tools to create effects such as a heartbeat sound.

Alongside this, they will study music and words, listening to songs like Music Italiano and I'll Sing This Song to develop their understanding of musical vocabulary and expressive features. They will represent music through graphic scores and describe their creations using accurate terminology.

Improvisation will be a key focus, with children exploring call-and-response patterns and learning how improvisation has shaped musical styles from classical cadenzas to jazz scat singing. They will discover influential musicians such as Louis Armstrong and explore how music can convey mood and atmosphere by creating pieces inspired by lyrics, words, and poetry.

## **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 all our prior knowledge to use numbers for time, express opinions about food and drink and to create descriptions of different objects. Year 5 are also using their conjugation skills to master and apply to different French verbs. We will apply all our learning as we find out about France and what it is like to join in with their celebrations of Épiphanie - La Fête des Rois, Mardi Gras and Easter.

## **Computing**

As computer experts, they will continue to develop their digital skills through three exciting units:

- ✓ **Programming B: Making an Animal Classification Tool**  
They will use their programming knowledge to design and create an interactive tool that classifies animals based on their characteristics. They will learn how to use selection and conditions in code to make their programs respond intelligently to user input.
- ✓ **Data and Information: Flat File Databases**  
They will explore how data can be organised and stored in flat file databases. They will learn to search, sort, and filter information efficiently, understanding how databases are used in real-world contexts to manage large sets of data.
- ✓ **Creating Media: Vector Drawing**  
In this creative unit, they will learn how to create digital artwork using vector graphics. They will experiment with shapes, layers, and colours to design images that can be scaled without losing quality, developing both technical and artistic skills.

By the end of the term, they will have strengthened their understanding of programming, data handling and digital creativity - preparing them for more advanced computing concepts.

## **Homework**

Weekly spellings, SPaG and maths homework will be set alongside a half termly topic homework menu which will consist of a bank of activities. These activities will vary from design and technology, art, maths, science, English or computing. An online safety and school values task will also be included. Children should complete at least two tasks. The purpose of this is to immerse the children within the topic and to give them a varied homework diet to showcase different talents. Children will be asked to share their homework in the style of an 'exhibition' in class, where they can explain their work to their peers in the last week of term.

It is essential that your child reads as much as possible. This doesn't always have to be your child's reading book; it is just as beneficial for your child to read a wider variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Please ensure your child's reading record is completed.