



Year 5 Curriculum Overview – Autumn Term 2026

English

To begin, the children will learn explicit grammar skills to support their writing as part of their English lessons. We will then complete an author study focusing on books by Katherine Rundell. We will use her novel *The Explorer* as inspiration for a setting description and write a biographical piece about her life and inspirations.

In the second half of the Autumn term, the children will have the opportunity to explore Lewis Carroll writing, focusing on *The Jabberwocky* and *Alice in Wonderland* as the stimulus for poetry performances, and character creation.

Spelling will be explicitly taught once per week (with a spelling test on a Friday).

Maths

This year, we will be using White Rose Maths resources to engage the children in their learning. During the morning maths lesson we will be focusing on the year 5 objectives, however, we will also begin each afternoon with an additional 10-minute session to focus on our arithmetic and calculation skills. The units covered during this term are place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions and negative numbers.

The children will receive weekly homework focusing on learning their times tables. Alongside this, children can access TT Rockstars to support with rapid recall of times tables. The children's log on details for TT Rockstars remain the same as in Year 4 but can be found in their planners.

Reading

In Year 5, children are encouraged to change their home reader whenever they are ready rather than on a set day. Planners are checked by staff on a Friday. Children are expected to write at least four independent comments per week including the date, book and pages read alongside a detailed comment. Ideas for entries can be found inside the front cover of your child's planner. In addition to their home reader, children are encouraged to read books borrowed from the library and books and texts available to them at home.

In our daily reading sessions, we are focusing on improving our vocabulary, alongside learning how to respond to a variety of texts. The skills we are focusing on include inference, summarising, retrieval, sequencing, commenting and considering authors' choices.

Religious Education

During the first half term, we will be using the Worcester Syllabus to explore the question 'Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?'

During the second half of the term, we will be considering the question 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' as part of our Understanding Christianity unit on Incarnation.

History

This term we will be learning all about the ancient Greeks considering the question 'What is the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation?' Investigating the city states of Athens and Sparta, children identify the similarities and differences between them. Using different sources of evidence, they learn about democracy and compare this to the ways in which other civilisations are governed.

Physical Education

P.E. sessions for Year 5 will be on Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursday (indoor). Please ensure that children wear their correct P.E. kit in school on these days and that hair is tied up. Children must be able to remove their own earrings for P.E. Please note that children will need black pumps for indoor P.E. and trainers for outdoor P.E.

During the first half term, we will be focusing on football (outdoors) and gymnastics (indoors). These will be followed by dance (indoors) and netball (outdoors) in the second half term.

Art and Design

This term, we will be investigating self-portraits by a range of artists and considering how the media and colours they choose to use can reflect their character. The children will use photographs of themselves as a starting point for developing their own unique self-portraits in mixed media.

Science

In Science we will begin by learning about how humans grow and change from birth through to old age. We will also explore the life cycles of plants and animals, identifying the similarities and differences between them.

During the second half term, we will be investigating forces, including gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance. Through a series of exciting experiments, we will explore how these forces affect the movement of objects.

Geography

This term, the children will be learning all about the importance of oceans. They will recap their knowledge of the water cycle, explore how oceans regulate the Earth's climate and temperature and look at the impact of human behaviour on the Great Barrier reef. We will also collect data during a local fieldtrip along the Stourbridge canal.



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French

In the first half of the term the children will be focusing on their ability to describe. They will learn how to use the correct article to go with nouns and make adjectives agree with the noun they describe.

In Autumn 2, our French lessons continue to build on this knowledge as the children will begin using figurative language and develop sentence structure.

Computing

In computing during the first half term, we will be developing our knowledge and understanding of online safety by asking the question 'What dangers are there online?' After considering the dangers that the internet can present, we will be considering what measures we can take to protect ourselves and keep ourselves safe.

During the second half term, we will be linking our computing with our science and using a program called 'Mars Rover' to read binary code and answer the following question:

01000011 01100001 01101110 00100000 01101001 00100000 01100101 01100101 01100001 01100100
00100000 01100010 01101001 01101110 01100001 01100101 01111001 00100000 01100011 01101111
01100100 01100101 00111111. (Can I Read Binary Code?)

We will also be improving our communication and presentation skills by using programs such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher and PowerPoint.

Music

To begin, music lessons will be based on the theme of Ancient Egypt. Children learn to identify the pitch and rhythm of written notes and experiment with notating their compositions, developing their understanding of staff notation.

We will then focus on the Blues, where children will learn what a chord is and play the chord of C, play the 12-bar blues correctly and play the notes of the blues scale in the correct order.



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Design Technology

This term, we will focus on Food Technology and explore the question 'Can you make a recipe healthier and more ethical?' The children will be tasked with designing and making their own unique Bolognese sauce. To be successful, the children will explore the journey of beef from farm to fork; analyse the nutritional content of different sauces; choose ingredients for a healthier alternative; practise food preparation skills; create their product and then design and make packaging to promote their healthier and more ethical result.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (including Relationships Education)

Our first unit 'Growing up: How can I manage?' is aimed at helping the children to understand the physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty, including their impact on feelings, behaviour and relationships.

During the second half of the term, we will be focusing on 'My healthy self: How can I support my mind and body as I grow?' In this unit, the children will learn how everyday choices can support physical and emotional wellbeing by exploring nutrition, physical activity and self-regulation.