






Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers 2025-26






Year 5





Autumn Term

This term we will be learning the following things. Here are some useful hints and tips for helping at home.

	Overview of Learning	Ideas for Learning at Home
English 	<p>At the start of Year 5, the class will be revising their knowledge of grammar and punctuation and learning new skills and concepts. Throughout the Autumn term, they will be reading a variety of science fiction, fairy tale and mythological class novels: The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day by Christopher Edge, Hansel and Gretel by Neil Gaiman, The Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson and Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman. Using these novels and other linked texts, the children will write their own texts, such as persuasive speeches, non-chronological reports and setting descriptions.</p>	<p>Children should be reading at least three times a week at home and recording this themselves in their reading records. Regular reading will be rewarded with weekly book worms. Encourage your child to read a wide range of age-appropriate books to work on developing their vocabulary and understanding. Talk about words they are unfamiliar with and encourage them to use them in a range of contexts.</p> <p>Ask your child about the class novel – are they enjoying the book? Who is their favourite character and why? What do they think is going to happen next?</p> <p>Each week, children should practise their spelling rules for Friday's spelling bee. They will be awarded stamps for evidence of practice in their homework book and will receive an STS if their score has improved or if they get full marks.</p> <p>Homework (Spelling and Maths) will be given out on a Monday and will need to be returned by Friday.</p>

<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Decimal Fractions: Compare and order numbers with tenths; add and subtract numbers involving tenths; round numbers with tenths to the nearest whole; compare and order numbers with hundredths; add and subtract with hundredths; round numbers with hundredths to the nearest tenth or whole; compare and order numbers with thousandths.</p> <p>Negative Numbers: Count through zero into negative numbers; compare and order numbers including negative numbers; increases and decreases through zero; find the difference.</p> <p>Position and Direction: Read and plot coordinates in all four quadrants; translate coordinates; translate and reflect in all four quadrants.</p> <p>Short Multiplication and Short Division: build up to four digit x 1 digit multiplication/division with multiple regrouping; understand and use remainders after division; most efficient methods – mental or written.</p> <p>Area: find the area of rectangles by counting squares and using a formula. Find the area of more complex compound shapes using a formula.</p>	<p>It is vital that the children continue to be confident with their times tables. Please encourage them to keep practising at home – TTRockstars is a fun way to keep times tables fresh.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>Earth and Space: During this science topic, Year 5 will be learning about our solar system. They will be able to describe the shape and position of the sun, planets and our moon. They will learn how the moon orbits Earth and how the light from the sun causes different moon phases and how our orbit of the sun causes night and day. They will also learn how our ideas about the solar system have developed through history.</p> <p>Properties and Changes of Materials: In this topic, Year 5 will build on their prior knowledge of a range of materials and their properties. They will learn about reversible and irreversible changes, such as dissolution, separation and evaporation. The children will learn how being heated, cooled or mixed can alter the properties of materials. They will also consider what changes happen in everyday situations.</p>	<p>What can your child tell you about space? Maybe you could make some observations together of the stars, the moon phases or the sun as Earth moves through the day.</p> <p>Can your child identify any changes to materials at home? Perhaps when cooking or making a hot drink, you could talk through the process of what is happening to the different materials.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>This term, Year 5 will be exploring the big questions: Who settled in Britain after the Roman legions left? and How do we know what their lives were like? Children will learn about Anglo-Saxon settlements, how the kingdoms were structured and how Anglo-Saxon England was ruled. They will also consider the Anglo-Saxon conversion to Christianity and its impact on British history.</p>	<p>Children will love reading and watching the Smashing Saxons series from Horrible Histories!</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The first geography topic of the year will explore the region of the North East. Throughout the topic, the class will develop their knowledge and understanding of what a region is and what the different regions in England are. They will also learn how to locate places and features within the North East region and how we can navigate the region. Finally, the children will investigate change within a specific area of the North East region and suggest future changes within this specific area.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you any facts they have learnt about the North East region? Can they spot any of the aspects we have discussed whilst you are in the region?</p>

<p>Art & Design</p> 	<p>This term our art will have a focus on drawing, and we will be studying art inspired by flowers and plants. Drawing inspiration from William Morris, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Katie Scott, Year 5 will experiment with different drawing techniques and art pencils, and have the opportunity to do observational drawing of plants and flowers. They will then design their own piece inspired by the artists they have studied and the techniques they have learned. They will finally have the opportunity to evaluate their own work and that of their peers.</p>	<p>Observe flowers and plants and look at the textures and patterns – perhaps even do some observational drawings of your own! Children could also do some research to find other artists who have been inspired by flowers and plants.</p>
<p>Design & Technology</p> 	<p>The aim for Year 5’s first design and technology project this year is to make a toy for a KS1 pupil which moves up and down using a cams mechanism. Throughout the project, the children will research and investigate cams mechanisms, design and make their toy and finally evaluate their toy.</p>	<p>Can your child identify any toys in your house that use a cams mechanism? Can they explain how it works?</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>At the start of the Autumn term, Year 5 will be learning about some of the key aspects of Islam, such as prayer, fasting and how Muslims show their commitment to God. Later in the term, the class will be exploring Christian beliefs about God and whether the Christmas story is true.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you any facts about Islam and Christianity? Are there any similarities or differences?</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>PE will be on Thursday afternoons for Year 5. In our PE lessons over the course of this term, the class will focus on invasion and ball skills in their units on football and rounders. Later in the term, they will develop their tag rugby and swimming skills.</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child remembers to bring their PE kit and a water bottle every Thursday. We will be outside in all weathers (within reason) so appropriate clothing is essential.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>One of the PSHE focuses during the autumn term will be considering the following question – ‘What does discrimination mean?’. Throughout this unit, the children will explore how different characteristics and qualities make up our identity. The children will learn to understand that we all have personal attributes and qualities and to recognise and respect similarities and differences. Children will be encouraged to consider what a stereotype is and how it can have a negative influence on our attitude and behaviour towards somebody.</p> <p>Another PSHE focus this term will be ‘How do we grow and change?’. As well as discussing the physical changes, the children will also explore how puberty can affect emotions and feelings. They will understand how personal hygiene routines may change during puberty and how to ask for advice and support during this time. Throughout the term, the children will also be developing their understanding of online bullying (and how we can combat it) and what data we should share online.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to ask for help or support if they are struggling with any of the topics covered this term, particularly linked to puberty and the changes they will go through during this time in their lives.</p>

<p>Music</p> 	<p>This year, the children will be developing their skills in reading music and playing brass instruments. This will be led by the Durham Music Service. They will be listening carefully to each other's performances and offering helpful feedback. Later in the term, they will be exploring harmony in singing. Once a week, the children will be part of a singing assembly where they will learn about the dimensions and genres of music, and learn songs from different genres, and songs linked to our school values.</p>	<p>Discuss music with your child when you listen to it, asking about the instruments they can hear. They should be able to comment on the tempo, dynamics and mood of the music. Ask your child to share our songs with you and enjoy them together.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>For our Digital Literacy focus this half term, we will be exploring Purple Mash, a resource for computing with a huge range of uses. We will learn about the process of designing and creating interactive quizzes through exploring question types, adding creative features and debugging. We will evaluate the features of successful video games and design and make our own 3D maze adventure game. We will continue to embed our knowledge about staying safe online.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you the important rules of being a good 'digital citizen'?</p> <p>Where can they spot real world examples of interactive quizzes?</p> <p>Can your child tell you what makes a good adventure game?</p>
<p>Spanish</p> 	<p>We are all very excited that all of Key Stage 2 will be learning Spanish from this year. Through the fantastic resource Language Angels, Year 5 will begin their lessons by learning the fundamentals of the language, particularly the Spanish phonemes and how to pronounce these.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you any of the new words or phrases that they have been learning in Spanish?</p> <p>Why not sign up to Duolingo to help your child practise Spanish at home? https://www.duolingo.com/</p>
<p>Trips, Experiences and Enrichment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork in an area in the North East (Geography) • Trip to Durham Cathedral on the train (Enrichment) • Visit to Jarrow Hall • Enterprise (Enrichment) • Whole School Pantomime 	

Within school we have 6 values: **Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Fairness, Teamwork** and **Ambition**.
These are interwoven through our curriculum and everyday practice.