

# Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 5

Spring 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



Our writing in Spring 1 will be based on *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd. We will explore mystery and suspense as a genre, and we will use our findings to write our own suspense narrative. We will also recount in the form of a tabloid newspaper report. We will then be developing our character writing skills by retelling the novel as a series of diary entries.

The second class novel this term is *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll. This novel captures our curriculum theme of Coasts, set against a backdrop of the Second World War. The children will develop their narrative skills by creating a character profile. They will also improve their non fiction skills by writing persuasively, and by writing an explanation text about coastal features.

We also hope to find opportunities to share some of our writing with parents this term.

Find children's newspaper reports and look at the features. Read other mystery or suspense stories to get a feel for the genre.

Continue to 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 try to use them in a range of contexts.

Ask your child about the class novel and see what they can recount. Ask them what they're enjoying about the book – we're having great fun reading it!

### Maths



**Volume:** Comparing and estimating volume. Estimating capacity.

**Multiplication and Division:** Learning to understand multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers. Multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000.

**Fractions:** Compare and order fractions whose denominators are all multiples of the same number. Identify, name and write equivalent fractions of a given fraction, represented visually, including tenths and hundredths. Recognise mixed numbers and improper fractions and convert from one form to the other. Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator and denominators that are multiples of the same number. Multiply proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers, supported by materials and diagrams.

**Statistics:** Reading, interpreting, and solving problems with line graphs, tables, and two way tables.

**Decimals & Percentages:** Read and write decimal numbers as fractions. Recognise and use thousandths and relate them to tenths, hundredths and decimal equivalents. Round decimals with two decimal places to the nearest whole number and to one decimal place. Read, write, order and compare numbers with up to three decimal places. Solve problems involving number up to three decimal place. Recognise the percent symbol (%) and understand that percent relates to 'number of parts per hundred', and write percentages as a fraction with denominator 100, and as a decimal. Solve problems which require knowing percentage and decimal equivalents of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\frac{2}{5}$ ,  $\frac{4}{5}$  and those fractions with a denominator of a multiple of 10 or 25.

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!








### Science






This term we will be learning about life processes, including reproduction in plants and some animals. They will learn different ways plants disperse seeds, how plants are pollinated and how they have adapted to be able to do so. We will use our skills in working scientifically to make observations, predictions, and research.

We will also be recapping the main animal groups and their characteristics, and comparing life cycles of mammals, insects, amphibians, and birds.

As we move into spring, children could observe the changes that are happening in the natural world. What evidence of new life can you see? Look at what is happening in different habitats, either in your garden or when going out for a walk. Look at plants and identify different parts, and look for evidence of pollination happening. You could even plant your own seeds (such as cress or beans) and keep an observation diary of what happens each week!

<p><b>Geography</b></p> 	<p>This term our topic in geography is Coasts. The children will learn what defines a coastline and how to identify key physical and human features. They will study how coasts vary in appearance and change over time, as well as learning the reason for those changes, such as erosion and deposition. They will learn the function and importance of sea defences, and find out about the effects of human activity on coastal areas. We will also learn about the coast as a habitat and explore the factors that can damage them.</p> <p>We will consolidate and extend our learning by visiting St Mary's Lighthouse.</p>	<p>Children could use the internet to research a specific coast in our local area, or one they have visited, or they could find out what animals live in coastal habitats and share what they have found out. If you get the opportunity to visit the coast one day, you could observe some of the features we have discussed and draw a map. You could also go for a walk using our fieldwork skills to follow a map of the area where you live.</p>
<p><b>Art &amp; Design</b></p> 	<p>This term we will be developing our painting skills, with the theme of Seascapes. We will be learning how to create texture using paint, how to create shadows and highlight, and will experiment mixing complementary colours. We will then use our skills to create works inspired by the costal landscape.</p> <p>We will also be hosting a workshop from a visiting artist to inspire the children and develop their skills using paint and mixed media.</p>	<p>The children could create their own coastal artworks at home using any artistic skill they like – painting, drawing, textiles, digital, or even sculpture! If you visit the seaside, they could also collect driftwood, shells or sea glass to bring to school and use to inspire their artworks.</p>
<p><b>Design &amp; Technology</b></p> 	<p>Our focus in D&amp;T this term will be textiles. The children will look at how simple functional textile items such as drawstring bags are put together, and will learn about different types of fabric and fastenings. They will also learn how to join fabric together and how to create and use a simple 2D pattern. They will design a simple product and select materials to suit their purpose, before making and evaluating their final product.</p>	<p>Children could further their understanding of fabrics and fastenings by looking at different textile products at home – there will be far more than they first expect! They could also look at clothes for different occasions and talk about why they are made from different fabrics. They could also look at their favourite clothes or talk about clothes in shops and consider why the design appeals to them.</p>
<p><b>RE</b></p> 	<p>This term in RE, we will be discussing these two big questions: Why do Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah? Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?</p> <p>We will explore Christian and Jewish beliefs and practises, looking at scripture and religious artefacts to develop our understanding. Together we will use discussion to come up with our own responses to the questions.</p>	<p>Children could discuss what they have learned at home, explaining their understanding.</p> <p>As we approach Easter and Holy Week, they can observe how the events link to their learning in RE.</p>
<p><b>PE</b></p> 	<p>This term the children will be developing their dance skills. They will be learning about the meaning of locomotor and non-locomotor movements, and how they can affect a dance routine. They will be learning about the dance styles of Bollywood and line dance, and will have opportunities to choreograph, practise and perform their own routines.</p> <p>With the coach they will be developing their teamwork and coordination by learning to play handball. This game combines skills seen in previously learned games and will allow the children to practise these skills in a new game.</p>	<p>Children could practise their new skills at home, or explain the rules of the sport to you.</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><b>PSHE</b></p> 	<p>Our first topic will be 'What makes a community?'. We will be investigating what it means to be part of a community, and what benefits and responsibilities come with being part of a community. We will also be studying and comparing familiar communities with communities in a non-European culture. This links to the Fundamental British Value of mutual respect and tolerance.</p> <p>Then we will be addressing the topic of 'What are healthy choices?'. We will talk about how to look after our minds and bodies, as well as learning about the risks associated with some unhealthy choices, including alcohol and drugs. We will also look at how the way we look after our physical health can also impact our mental health.</p>	<p>Support your child at home by providing a safe and supportive space for them to talk openly about anything we discuss in PSHE, which they may wish to talk about with you.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></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. 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 what they can hear. Ask your child to share our songs with you and enjoy them together.</p>

<p><b>Computing</b></p> 	<p>This term in Computing the children will learn about spreadsheets and databases, exploring how to use them and then creating them for a purpose. They will also develop their word processing skills using Microsoft Word.</p> <p>We will also touch on the role technology plays in making healthy choices in our PSHE sessions in Spring 2.</p>	<p>Children will be able to access Purple Mash at home and can try out some of their new skills when they are set for them as a 2Do. They could also practise typing on Microsoft Word.</p> <p>Continue to talk to them about online safety, encouraging open conversations about what they access online.</p>
<p><b>French</b></p> 	<p>In French, we will be learning vocabulary about days and dates. We will then learn some vocabulary to describe our homes.</p>	<p>Can your child tell you any of the words or phrases that they have been learning in French? Why not sign up to Duolingo to help your child learn French? <a href="https://www.duolingo.com/">https://www.duolingo.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Trips, Experiences and Enrichment</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip to Durham Cathedral on the train (enrichment) – February 13<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• World Book Day (animal theme) – 7<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• St Mary's Lighthouse (Geography) - March 27<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Workshop with Jane Howroyd (Art) – Date TBC</li> </ul>	

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