



St Mary's CE Primary School

"Nurturing Success"



Information for Parents and Carers

Year 5

Autumn 2025

Our theme is
'Ancient Greeks'

We hope that you will find the following information useful in supporting your child in his or her work at school and at home. With this information to hand you will be able to talk to your child more about what they are doing at school and ask them questions about the topics you know they will be looking at. This information includes only the main themes, ideas and topics which the children will experience.

Planning is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus for religious education.

English

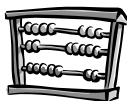


This term, much of our whole class reading teaching will be based on a range of Ancient Greek myths and legends. We will also be including weekly GPS (grammar, punctuation & spelling) lessons throughout the autumn term. Children will regularly be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge of GPS. As part of this, children will have a weekly spelling test each Friday. We will also be looking at a range of instruction texts, recounts and poetry during the term.

At least twice a half term, the children will have the opportunity to take part in 'Independent Writing' sessions where they will focus on improving their writing skills over a range of genres.

Our lessons also include opportunities a variety of speaking and listening activities.

Mathematics



In the Autumn term we will be exploring place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be working with concrete objects to secure skills before moving onto reasoning and problem solving which allows children to deepen their understanding. There will also be a strong focus on developing arithmetic skills. Each week the children will have some arithmetic homework to complete. There will also be a weekly arithmetic test on a Friday. In addition, we will be doing weekly Times Table Rock Star tests covering from 2 to 12. Children will need to practise these both in and out of school.

Homework

Arithmetic tests will be given as homework this term, sent home on a Friday to be returned by the following Monday. Reading books will also be sent home daily and will need to be returned to school each day.

Your child will receive a list of words on a Friday to learn for a spelling test on the following Friday. The children will not have spelling homework books this year and will not be expected to hand their spelling homework in. We expect children to use the grid on their spelling homework sheet to learn their spellings using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' strategy and to use other strategies for learning these spellings and their meanings on the back of the sheet. The same words to learn will also be set on Spelling Shed so that children can use these resources to help them to practise their spellings. Further guidance for spelling homework and the expectations can be found on the school website.

Science

For the first half of this term we will be learning about living things and their habitats. Children will learn about the life cycle of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. They will be able to compare the life cycles and describe differences between them. They will observe and share personal experiences of observing life cycle changes in a variety of living things. They will also find out about the life cycles of other plants and animals from around the world. Children will be able to identify reproduction as a life process (as well as growth) in the life cycles. They will learn about sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and about sexual reproduction in animals (involving two parents).



For the second half of the term, we will be focusing on Earth and Space. Children will learn that the Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system and that it is orbited by eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus Neptune. Children learn that a moon is a celestial body that orbits a planet. They will learn that the Earth only has one moon which takes about 28 days to complete its orbit. They learn that the same side of the moon always faces Earth. Children learn that Earth rotates (spins) on its axis every 24 hours. Through modelling, they are able to understand and explain how the Earth's rotation causes day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky. (Children are warned that it is not safe to look directly at the Sun.) Children will know that the Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical.

Computing

In computing lessons this year, children will begin by developing coding skills using Scratch software. They will learn two units throughout their computing lessons. 'We are Game developers' will help the children understand how to use Scratch to make backgrounds and characters and will use coding to move their characters and objects. They will also learn the unit 'We are cryptographers' where the children will learn morse code, cipher code and semaphore code. The children will be able to crack codes within this and will be able to learn and understand why coding is and has been used throughout History.



Religious Education

During the Autumn term, the children will focus on Christianity. This half term, under the theme of 'Incarnation', we will consider the question 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' For the second half term, under the theme of 'Salvation', we will explore the question 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?'



Design and Technology, including Cookery and Nutrition

Design and Technology will involve textiles this term, linking well with what the children will be learning about in our Ancient Greeks topic. The children will investigate the Ancient Greeks to look at what materials were available/used for Greek purses and why. They will learn to design a range of purses taking other's views. They will learn to disassemble purses to understand how stitches and joining fabric works. They will learn to produce plans that include written and visual instructions for others to follow.



As part of our Enhanced Curriculum activities, at some point during the year, all children will participate in cooking and nutrition lessons. You will be asked to provide ingredients for these lessons and your child will then bring home the food they have prepared with them.

History

Children will understand that Ancient Greece overlaps in history with Ancient Egypt but lasted for a much shorter period of time in history. They will compare aspects of the two ancient civilisations. They will identify the different ways the past is represented and ask historically-valid questions to refine lines of enquiry. They will use different sources of information to make simple observations, inferences and deductions about life in Ancient Greece. Children will consider the importance of the influence of this time and place in history on the Western world.





Geography

Children will locate European countries using maps and globes. They will learn about Greece's physical and human changes over time and the reasons for these changes. They look at important landmarks such as the Parthenon, Mount Olympus and Olympic stadiums and talk about how these landmarks were used then and how they are used now. Children will learn about the physical and human geography of modern Greece today and how that is similar and different to where they live. Children will also locate Russia and find out about the country and some of its landmarks and traditions.

French

In French this year, the children will be following the iLanguages French scheme. This term they will cover the following topics: Classroom instructions and opinions, Sports opinions and sports clothing, Revise 'avoir' with negative adjectival agreement, Read, listen and respond to a traditional story, compare a traditional story to an English story, masculine and feminine forms, describing the weather, hobbies, pets and Christmas: Learn about Epiphany tradition.



Art and Design

Sessions this term will be linked to topic work and whole school themes. In particular, links will be made with our topic of the Ancient Greeks. For example; children will explore print making and produce their own prints using a double-layered mono-printing method.

Music



During the term there will be opportunities for the children to develop their listening, composition and performance skills through a wide range of activities including singing and playing the glockenspiel. They will also be having extra music lessons every week learning more notes on the recorder and will be performing pieces of music within this instrument. Children will focus on the genres Jazz, Hip Hop and will be learning about Florence Price.

Physical Education



This term the children will be learning to develop practical skills in order to participate, compete and lead a healthy lifestyle through our weekly PE sessions. They will participate in the following units: Tennis, Tag Rugby, Badminton and Handball allowing them to practise and develop a range of different skills and be able to compete in-house team games.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Children will learn two units within PSHE. The first unit being Health and Wellbeing 'Keeping Safe'. They will learn about how to keep safe in an emergency, understanding risks, being responsible and independent during risks, good and bad habits and keeping safe from drugs.

Children learn how to recognise and respect similarities and differences between people and what they have in common with others. They develop their understanding of how a range of factors contribute to a person's identity (e.g. ethnicity, family, faith, culture, gender, hobbies, likes/dislikes) and how individuality and personal qualities make up someone's identity. Children learn how drugs common to everyday life (including smoking/vaping - nicotine, alcohol, caffeine and medicines) can affect health and wellbeing. They learn that some drugs are legal (but may have laws or restrictions related to them) and other drugs are illegal. They develop their understanding of how laws surrounding the use of drugs exist to protect them and others. They consider why people choose to use or not use different drugs and how the risks associated with them can be prevented or reduced. Children learn that for some people, drug use can become a habit which is difficult to break

Enhanced Curriculum

As part of the children's Enhanced Curriculum afternoons each Tuesday, they will enjoy a carousel of activities over the school year. In addition to computing and music, these activities will include STEM, Environmental Exploring, Cooking and Nutrition, Library/book Club and Growth Mindset.

Uniform

Please ensure that suitable dark-coloured school shoes are worn. Trainers are not to be worn apart from during PE lessons. Open-toed sandals are also unsuitable. For the full uniform requirements, please see the Parent Portal on the school website.

Thank you for taking time to read this information.