



St Mary's CE Primary School

"Nurturing Success"

Information for Parents and Carers

Year 5

Spring 2026

Our themes this term are Vikings and Rivers



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. If you would like any further information about what your child is learning about, please speak to a member of the Year 5 team.

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

English and Literacy

This term, much of our whole class reading teaching will be based on our spring term novel 'How to Train Your Dragon'. We will also be including weekly GPS (grammar, punctuation & spelling) lessons throughout the spring 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. They will also receive their new spelling list on the same day and are expected to learn these for the following week. We will also be looking at a range of genres this term including, newspaper reports, diaries and stories. The children will also be participating in a formal debate.

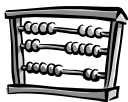


At least twice a half term, the children will have the opportunity to take part in 'Independent Writing' sessions where they will focus on improving their writing skills over a range of genres.

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

Mathematics

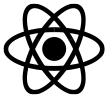
In the Spring term we will be exploring fractions, decimals, percentages and geometry. We will be working with concrete objects to secure skills before moving onto reasoning and problem solving which allows children to deepen their understanding. There will also be a strong focus on developing arithmetic 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 tests from 2 to 12. Children will need to practise these both in and out of school.



Homework

The children will continue to receive arithmetic homework, which will be sent home every Friday to be returned by the following Tuesday. Reading books will also continue to be sent home as well as weekly spelling lists. It is extremely important that children read regularly at home and update their reading record accordingly. Spelling homework will continue to be sent out on a Friday.





Science

The science topic for this term is 'Properties and changes of materials'. The children will compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets. Children will be working scientifically to test a variety of materials and how they react to different environments. For example, children will learn that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution. They will also investigate how mixtures might be separated (through filtering, sieving and evaporating), and learning the difference between reversible and irreversible changes. Children will be giving reasons based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. Wherever possible, it would benefit the children if you could support them with discussing uses for everyday materials in the household – for example, why are radiators not made out of wood?



Computing

In computing lessons this year, children will begin by developing coding skills using Scratch software.

Religious Education



In RE, the focus for the first half term, is Hinduism and looking at the importance of community and key milestones for people of this faith. During the second half term, we will return to 'Understanding Christianity' and explore the concept of how God is holy and loving. We will also start to participate in the Archbishop of York's 'Youth Trust Award' this term. Through this award, children will see the benefits of partaking in local, community or national charity work as well as working effectively in teams whilst developing leadership skills.

French

In French this term the children will continue to follow the iLanguages scheme of work covering a range of topics including: weather, calculations in French, transport and descriptions.

History



The children will study the Viking struggle for the Kingdom of England. They will investigate Viking raids and invasion (with a particular focus on the raid at Lindisfarne) and aspects of the Vikings' life and beliefs. This will strengthen their knowledge of significant periods of UK history and their understanding of chronology and key dates and events.

Geography



This term, the children will have the opportunity to develop their geographical knowledge through considering the physical features of rivers and the relationship between rivers and human activity. Studies of the processes at work within the water cycle will also link to science topics covered last year. The children will have the opportunity to apply the geographical knowledge and skills they have developed over the term in the context of a river environment when they participate in a field trip to Dalby Forest in February.

Art and Design



This term, the children will design and develop a collage combining different materials, colours and textures to recreate the sea. The children will learn skills such as finger knitting. They will also take part in the whole school Art Fortnight where we will be focusing on developing drawing skills using charcoal.



Design and Technology

This term the children will consider the structure of objects, looking particularly at helmets and how they are designed. This work will be linked to our topic work on the Vikings. They will also carry out a short project using computer programming to operate a motor.

In cooking and nutrition, the children will continue to master practical skills using a range of techniques and developing an understanding of how to adapt recipes and evaluate a final product, suggesting improvements that could be made.



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. They will be focussing on playing the recorder. Children will also be looking at the history of Jazz music and using instruments to perform themselves.



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 a range of units, including hockey, gymnastics, dance and basketball, allowing them to practise and develop a range of different skills.



Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

This term our topic is 'Relationships'. We will look at feelings and emotions and how to deal with these, healthy relationships with others and discussing the importance of valuing differences in everyone and their families.

Thank you for taking time to read this information.