

Year 5 Autumn 2026 Curriculum Guide

English

- Pupils are encouraged to build on the skills they learnt in Year 4 and timed tasks are encouraged.
- They will build on the comprehension skills they learnt in Year 4 and will begin to respond to a question using higher level inference and deduction skills.
- They read a range of different texts to understand how audience and purpose differ and apply specific language skills by using a variety of writing techniques such as figurative language.
- The class reader this term is *Boy at the Back of the Class*.
- Pupils will be expected to complete Accelerated Reader quizzes throughout the term on suitable Year 5 texts.
- Reading every day continues to be recorded in the Reading Record.
- Visualisation exercises and spelling tests take place every week.
- Homework includes comprehension, creative writing and weekly online BOFA activities.

Maths

- During the autumn term the pupils will consolidate and extend their knowledge of number work. They will look at: **place value** – read and write numbers up to ten million, count on in 10 000's, 100 000's and 1 000 000's, order and round numbers to the nearest 100, 10, 1 and 0.1.
- **Addition and subtraction** – recap the formal methods.
- **Multiplication and division** – multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000 mentally, use the formal methods, multiply by multiples of 10, 100 and 1000, write remainders as fractions after division.
- **Number properties** – use tests of divisibility, know factors, common factors and prime factors, create factor trees, know square roots and square numbers, find prime numbers.
- **Fractions** – add and subtract fractions (and mixed numbers), simplifying, find quantities of fractions; converting between fractions and mixed numbers.
- The pupils will also cover the topic of angles, finding angles on a straight line, around a point and in triangles and quadrilaterals; they will also need to know how to use a protractor accurately to measure and draw angles.
- The pupils will also be using MyMaths and ttRockstars to support their classwork and their homework. BOFA will also be used as a good practice of exam-styled questions.

Science

- Investigate which substances are soluble or insoluble.

- Explain and investigate reversible and irreversible changes.
- Explain what combustion is, including looking at the fire triangle and fire safety.
- Investigating density and buoyancy.
- Building and testing boats in the engineering sessions.
- Understanding gravity and its impact on the orbits of both planets and satellites.
- Look at the history of space exploration.
- Investigate the impact of friction and air resistance.
- In the engineering sessions, pupils will be constructing a model solar system with moving parts.

French

- The key objectives in French are to engage our pupils and communicate our passion for French and modern languages in general, to unlock the full potential of our pupils' ability to speak and write French, to promote a love of speaking a foreign language through entertaining and engaging teaching techniques and to introduce our pupils to the culture, geography and history of France.
- The topic areas and grammar for the autumn term are as follows: parts of the body, aches and pains. Living environment, rooms of the house. Weather forecast. Gender of nouns, prepositions, common verbs in the present tense. Christmas vocabulary.

Latin

This year's Latin syllabus introduces new grammar, vocabulary and simple syntax and builds on the foundation of work covered in Year 4. Latin is introduced via the course book, *Minimus 1*. It provides an opportunity for pupils to:

- translate simple stories in Latin
- understand and use some Latin vocabulary and grammar
- identify derivations in English (and occasionally in French)

The key objectives are:

- to engage and maintain curiosity and interest in the Graeco-Roman world
- to introduce pupils to aspects of the Latin language
- to provide a stimulating environment for the development of skills related to the learning of Latin and languages in general

In the autumn term, pupils will:

- recap this foundation work and move on to cover Chapters 3 and 4 of *Minimus 1*
- learn about verb endings in the present tense
- understand noun/adjective endings and agreement
- be introduced to simple adverbs.

Topic areas will include:

- everyday life and activities in Roman Britain

- slavery and the Britons vs the Romans
- the myth of Pandora's Box

Digital Skills

- This term pupils will use Scratch to create their own computer games. We will also introduce Python to extend their coding skills.
- Pupils will continue to practise their touch typing which they can also do at home using our Typing Club subscription.

Art and design

- Explore different pencil shading techniques of hatching, cross-hatching, scribbling, stippling, circling and blending.
- Develop the understanding and knowledge of Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Value, Form, Space, Colour and Texture.
- Work on a pencil drawing of a tree, looking at the works of John Constable.
- Develop the observational drawings into a watercolour piece of art in the romantic style of John Constable.
- Compare the realistic tree drawings to the drawing of a cubist tree.
- Learn about Cubism.
- Create a watercolour painting of a Cubist tree

History

This term, pupils learn about the closing stages of the Wars of the Roses and the history of Britain during the Tudor period. Specific topics are the Battle of Bosworth, Henry VII and the creation of the Church of England. After half-term, the pupils will learn about Elizabeth I, the Spanish Armada, Mary Queen of Scots and Tudor explorers such as Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake.

RS

This term we shall have a brief introduction to Islam. They will learn why Muhammad is important to Muslims.

Geography

- Pupils will study rivers, focusing on weathering
- Erosion
- River features and pollution of water sources.
- Study aspects of OS maps.

Music

This term's project is based around 'The Planets Suite' by Gustav Holst and has links with both science (the solar system) and Latin (Roman gods). Pupils will:

- learn about who Holst was and how he came to compose the music
- extend their knowledge of our solar system and the Roman gods
- listen to four of the movements in particular: Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Mars
- respond emotionally and imaginatively to the music through a range of written and practical tasks
- work in small groups to compose, rehearse, perform, record and appraise their own pieces based on the planets

In addition, they will spend some time preparing for the Christmas carol service.

Drama

Pupils will focus on developing 4 main skills in drama this term.

1. Mastering Core Drama Conventions

Pupils will move beyond simple "pretend play" into structured theatrical techniques to show a character's inner thoughts and motivations. For example:

- Freeze-Frames & Tableaux
- Thought-Tracking
- Hot-Seating

2. Physical & Vocal Skill Development

Drama games, including miming activities, will allow them to focus on particular performance skills and there will be a focus on basic performance mechanics such as:

- **Vocal Control:** Experimenting with **diction, pitch, pace, and intonation** to show how a character's voice changes based on emotion (e.g., fear vs. anger).
- **Physical Expression:** Using deliberate **body language, posture, and facial expressions** to make a character distinct, without relying solely on dialogue.
- **Space & Grouping:** Learning how to share a stage, position their bodies so they do not block the audience, and work cooperatively in small groups.

3. Text Exploration & Active Reading

Pupils will bring appropriate literature to life to boost inference and writing skills. For example:

- **Using drama to explore themes and characters** in typical Y5 texts. They will create their own dialogue to show understanding of a plot and demonstrate further awareness through interaction with other characters.
- **Performance Poetry:** Rehearsing and performing autumn-themed or narrative poems, focusing on rhythm, choral speaking, and physical movement.

- **Script Introduction:** Learning how to read a basic script layout, understanding the difference between dialogue and **stage directions**, and rehearsing short extracts.

4. Evaluating and Reflecting

- Pupils will develop their ability to watch others perform and give and take constructive criticism.
- They will start to use basic theatrical vocabulary to explain what worked well and what could be polished.

Games

In lessons

- Pupils progress their development of The Mall School approach to football.
- More depth is added to the pupils' knowledge of the structure and style of football played.
- The objective is for each pupil to represent the school in competitive matches against other schools and for our better players to aspire to play in the A and B teams.
- All pupils travel to Sunbury Cricket Club for games afternoons.

PE

This term

- Pupils study gymnastics and netball in the term.
- The focus for both is about the whole performances given.
- During gymnastic lessons pupils will be expected to create longer sequences of work which incorporate a variety of basic skills previously learnt.
- For netball, pupils will further develop shooting technique. Attack v defence situations will happen regularly to allow pupils to use the skills learnt.

Swimming

In the autumn term

- Pupils are introduced to more technical aspects of the basic strokes.
- Times are taken over 20 metres to measure improvement.
- Some pupils are invited to represent the school in competitive swimming galas both nationally and against local opposition.

NVR

- During the autumn term, the pupils will be tackling written and online non-verbal reasoning exercises. The focus will be on using the elimination and check back techniques to solve more challenging questions.

- Pupils will also be working against the clock and aiming to improve their initial scores. There will be written and online exams in this subject.

VR

- This term, pupils will revise all the areas of the VR curriculum including comprehension skills and logic puzzles. They will continue to do computer tasks using BOFA, as well as book-based work.
- Towards the end of term, Year 5 will move onto the Year 6 syllabus preparing them for 11+ exams.