Year 5 Curriculum Update – Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2026! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break, enjoying time with family and friends. As we look ahead to the Spring term, the Year 5 team is looking forward to delivering a range of fun and challenging lessons that will support the children in making good progress across all areas of learning. The information below outlines the topics and key learning that will be covered during the term and we hope it will help you to support your child at home:

ENGLISH

Children will be planning and writing autobiographies and biographies and learn about the variation in vocabulary, language and punctuation. In addition, children will enhance their writing skills by analysing character traits and ways to hook the reader via descriptive language, imagery, similes, and metaphors. They will be studying poetry with a Space theme linked to their science topic, looking at the use of different poetic devices and powerful language. Children will also be writing and comparing chronological and non-chronological reports. There will be a focus on time conjunctions and ways to write factual information in a creative way. Later, children will use their understanding about chronological reports to write a newspaper, including how they are formatted and the use of reported and direct speech. During the term, children will be reading their class book 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterly and 'The Great Barrier Reef'. Throughout the term, there will be a continued focus on comprehension, punctuation and grammar via daily guided reading lessons using their class book and different levelled reading books.

MATHEMATICS

During this term, children will compare and order fractions whose denominators are all multiples of the same number and identify, name and write equivalent fractions of a given fraction. They will 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. In addition, children will learn to multiply proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers. Using their understanding about decimals, children will calculate reasoning problems linked to money and also calculate percentages of whole numbers linked to a real-life context, such as shopping. Children will know angles are measured in degrees and estimate and compare acute, obtuse and reflex angles and draw given angles, and measure them in degrees. They will identify angles at a point and 1 whole turn (total 360°), identify angles at a point on a straight line and half a turn and use the properties of rectangles to deduce related facts and find missing lengths and angles. They will also explore how to transform shapes on a grid and use scale accurately. They will continue to practise their times tables and division facts up to 12x12 using 'Times table rock stars', weekly times table tests and 'rolling numbers' which is an immersive scheme to help children learn their times tables by chanting them using patterns (**for further information please see the school website** rolling numbers).

SCIENCE

This term, children will learn about Space by describing the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system. They will also describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth and learn to explain the sun, Earth and moon as approximately spherical bodies. In addition, children will learn about the Earth's rotation to explain day and

night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky. In addition, the children will learn about Animals including humans, specifically about life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. They will also learn to describe the life process of reproduction in plants and animals. Later, the children will learn about changes that human beings experience as they develop to old age. They will learn about the life cycle of a human being and explore the development of babies and compare the gestation period of humans and other animals. In addition, children will also investigate the life expectancy of different animals.



TOPIC

This term in history, children in Year 5 will be learning about the French Revolution and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. They will discuss the impact of the revolution and how this has helped to shape modern French society. The Transatlantic Slave Trade will look into the immoral trade of people and how it continues to affect equality in society today. In geography, children will be studying UK locations, including East Anglia, The Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside. Later in the term, they will be studying Australia. In music, children will focus on music from the USA and create their own hip hop song, rap and beat boxing. They will also learn to play Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' on tuned instruments and explore the importance of dynamics and expression. In art, children will develop their drawing skills by learning about evolution via drawing. As part of their outdoor PE lessons, children will have the opportunity to develop their basketball and football invasion games skills. Their indoor PE lessons will focus on gymnastics skills and orienteering within the school grounds. During their DT lessons, children will be researching, planning, making and evaluating bridges, as part of their structures technology unit. Children will continue their Mandarin learning by exploring the beliefs and customs linked to the Chinese New Year and the Lantern Festival; recognising significant dates; Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting; learning how to use chopsticks; identifying popular foods and drinks and learning numbers between 0-99. As part of their PSHE learning, children will explore the Jigsaw topics: 'dreams and goals' and as part of their RSHE learning, children will be studying the 'changing me' unit from Jigsaw, which will be used to deliver age-appropriate sex education lessons. (**For further information please see the school website for the updated Relationships and Sex Education Policy)**. Children will also take part in regular circle time lessons. In computing, Year 5 shall be working on a topic called 'Selection in Physical Computing'. In this unit, learners will use physical computing to explore the concept of selection in programming through the use of the Crumble programming environment. The second topic will be 'Flat File Databases'. This unit looks at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records There will be a focus on Judaism and Humanism to explore the 'why' and 'how' about religion and also learn about the teachings of Guru Nanak with a focus on Sikh Dharm in R.E. **(R.E. – for further information please see the school website or click on the following: Widening Diversity**)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Uniform:** please see the school website about the Cannon Lane School uniform, including wearing school shoes, at all times. Trainers are not permitted, unless your child has a medical condition. Notification must be given to the class teacher via the school office email: https://www.cannonlaneprimary.org/school-uniform/
- **Library:** Each class will have the opportunity to visit the library during the week:
  5A: Monday 5P: Tuesday 5S: Thursday 5W: Wednesday
- **P.E kits**: please ensure that children have their P.E kits **every Monday**, as P.E times are flexible. The P.E kit list is on the website and should be followed. P.E kits will be **brought home every Friday** so that they are **washed** and ready to be brought **back to school every Monday.**
- **P.E Uniform:** children should have a change of clothes for PE. School jumpers are not

to be worn as part of the P.E uniform. Please see the school website for clarification: https://www.cannonlaneprimary.org/school-uniform/

- **Water bottles:** children should bring a water bottle to school every day. All class have drinking water, which the children can use to refill their bottles.
- **Snacks:** children can bring in fresh fruit and vegetables as a snack. All plastic containers will be brought home at the end of the day
- **Homework**: all homework will be posted online using **Google Classroom**. Children should use their login details from last term, in order to complete the homework**.** The following homework will be given in Year 5:
- **Spellings:** these will be uploaded **at the start of each term.** Children will have a spelling test **every Friday**. Spellings will be differentiated, and the children will be told which set of spellings they will need to learn. A spelling matrix will also be uploaded should children wish to complete an activity to help them learn their spellings. This should be submitted each **Friday** before their spelling test.
- **Maths:** this will be **set every Friday** using MyMaths. Children will be reminded of their login details at school which they will need to complete their tasks. Teachers will show children how to login and complete their work. Children will also complete Times Tables Roxx Stars and be given login details to complete this activity.
- **Foundation/Topic:** this will be set **every 3 weeks on a Friday using Google Classroom**. It will be an open-ended, creative task to consolidate children's learning in class.
- **Reading books:** Your children will be given a reading book based on their ability. They should bring this book in every day. Teachers will tell your child how much to read and which target they will be focusing on, in preparation for their next guided reading session in school.
- **Reading records:** Each child will be given a reading record which they must bring into school every day. They must record they books they have read and comment on it. A signature by an adult is required every week. Children are encouraged to read every day for at least 20 minutes.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Best wishes
Mrs H Mistry

Assistant Headteacher (Years 5 and 6)