



January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you've had a restful and fun festive period. It has been so lovely to be back with the children after the holiday - they look rested and refreshed!

Curriculum

English – Our focus text this half term is *Varmints* by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. This is a visually exciting story in the fantasy genre. The children will explore, discuss and debate interesting and challenging themes, such as human impact on the natural world. This unit will focus on developing the children's creative writing skills.

History – Progressing directly on from our learning about Anglo-Saxon Britain, our next topic is Viking Britain. We will learn about the Vikings' desire to conquer the kingdoms of Britain; Viking rulers and laws; how the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia united to stand against the Viking invaders; and the reign of Æthelflæd as 'Lady of Mercia'.

Geography – Our next topic is Migration. We will learn about internal and international migration, and the 'push' and 'pull' factors involved. We will also learn about temporary migration, exploring the possible reasons for this. There will be a particular focus on understanding what the term 'refugee' means, and we will find out about the lives of children living in a refugee camp.

Science – Our next topic is Earth and Space. The children will learn about the structure of our solar system, how we experience night and day, and the phases of the Moon.

Maths – All maths groups will be completing further units on fractions and multiplication and division. You will find relevant activities on MyMaths and weekly activities posted on ParentHub. Please also remember to refer to our calculation policy on the school website to see how we teach written methods for multiplication and division.

Times Tables – For children in all maths groups, we strongly recommend regular times tables practice at home. Quick recall of times tables facts will help your child tremendously when tackling all areas of maths this half term. There is an expectation in Year 5 for children to know all times tables. Please see the new Home Learning sheets for games and websites that can help support times tables practice.

Religions and Worldviews – This term, our topic focuses on making moral choices. We will be exploring and discussing morality and moral dilemmas.

Reading – We will continue with whole-class reading lessons, focusing on a range of texts, including poetry, fiction, non-fiction and picture books.

Computing – We will learn about music programming using Scratch. Alongside this, we will continue to teach children how to stay safe online.

PE – The children will complete a gymnastics unit focusing on pair composition. They will also take part in a games unit focusing on ball-handling skills.

Swimming – 5B will complete their four remaining sessions on Thursdays (8th–29th January). After this, 5O will complete eight sessions on Thursdays. More information, including exact dates, will follow. We expect 5O to start on Thursday 5th February.

Trips / Special Projects

Rap Therapy (in school) – Year 5 and 6 will have a workshop from ‘Rap Therapy’ on Tuesday 13th January. The workshops consist of students participating in team building games, learning about similes, metaphors, rhyme schemes, writing about emotions, writing about different peoples’ situations, structuring a rap, practising, and performing.

Science Museum – As part of our science and geography curriculums, Year 5 will be visiting the Science Museum. During the visit, the children will explore the ‘Wonderlab’ and will watch ‘Ocean Odyssey’ at the IMAX cinema. Classes will either visit the museum on **Monday 2nd March** or **Monday 16th March**. More information will follow with exact dates and times closer to the time.

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 22nd January: Sibling photos

Friday 30th January: INSET day (school is closed for all children)

We look forward to another busy and productive half term.

Best wishes,

The Year 5 Team