



Year 5 Curriculum Overview

Term 1 2026–27

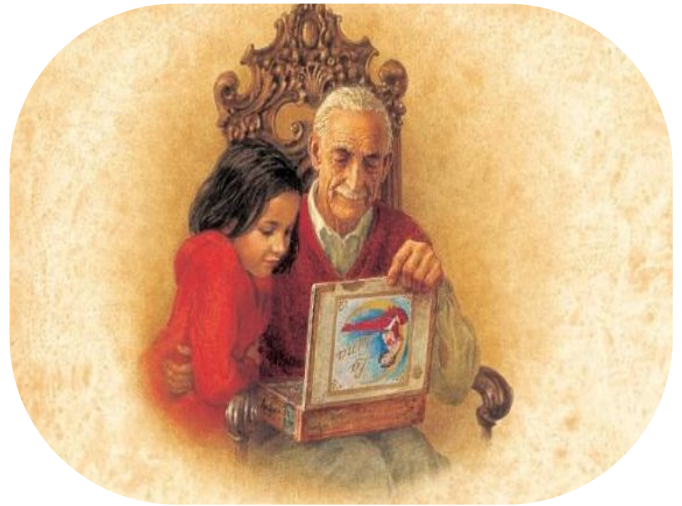
Discover what your child will be learning this term.

English

Writing - The Matchbox Diary and Beowulf

In English, children will read *The Matchbox Diary* by Paul Fleischman, a story about an Italian immigrant moving to America in the early 1900s, using it to write letters, descriptions, and diary entries. They will also read *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo, linking with their history topic on the Vikings to discover legendary heroes and write diary entries and story extracts.

Key Vocabulary: Immigrant, journey, memories, hero, warrior, courage, legend, folklore

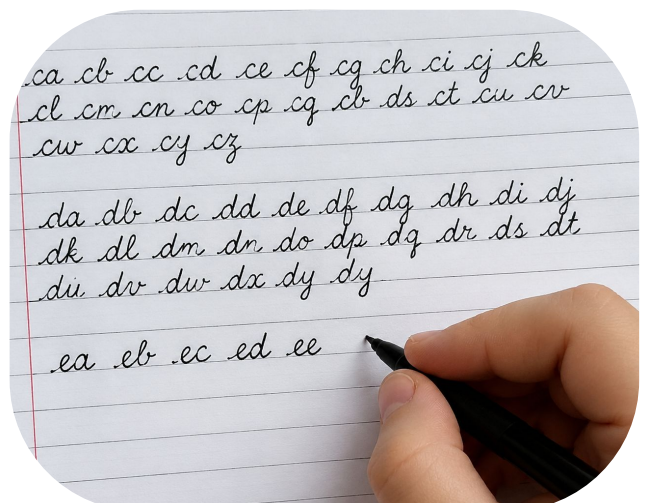


Reading

As children begin Year 5, they will continue to deepen their reading comprehension through four guided reading lessons each week and a weekly library session. The focus will be on developing higher-order reading skills, including inference, explanation, prediction, summarising and evaluating an author's language and choices.

Spelling and Handwriting

Children will continue to develop accurate spelling and a fluent, legible handwriting style through three spelling lessons and two Letter-join handwriting lessons each week. In Year 5, they will further develop confidence and consistency when writing in pen. Weekly spellings will be sent home as part of homework to support regular practice.



Maths

Number & Calculation

In Term 1, children will build confidence with numbers up to 1,000,000, including rounding, Roman numerals, and negative numbers in real-life contexts. They will practise standard written methods for adding and subtracting four-digit numbers to solve multi-step problems. Children will also investigate prime, square, and cube numbers, find factors, and practise multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1000.

Key Vocabulary: Hundred, thousand(s), integer, negative number, Millions, power of 10, ten thousand

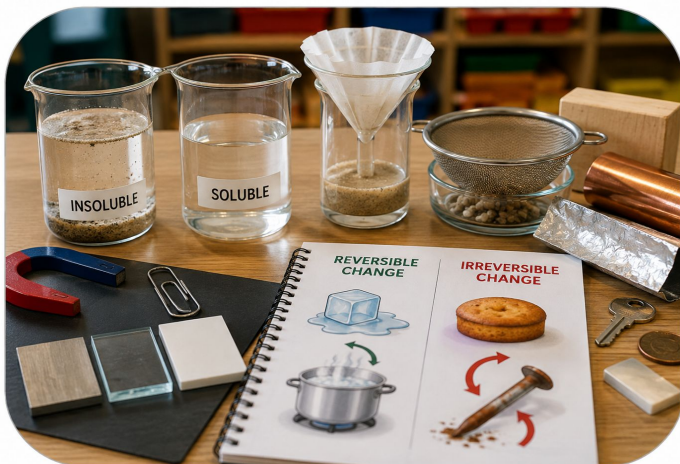


Science

Properties of Materials

In Science, children will explore different materials and learn why their properties make them useful for everyday items. Through practical experiments, they will test materials, observe how they mix or dissolve, and learn about reversible and irreversible changes.

Key Vocabulary: Conductor, Insulator, Dissolve, Solution, Soluble, Insoluble, Filter, Sieve, Reversible, Irreversible.



Computing

My AI Invention & Search Engines

In Computing, children will design and train an AI invention using image recognition. They will also explore how search engines work by creating web pages, practising effective online searching, and learning how to evaluate reliable information safely.

Key Vocabulary: AI model, Image recognition, Search engine, Web browser, Filtering, Research, Data, Online safety



Humanities

Invaders and Settlers: Anglo-Saxons, Scots, and Vikings

This term, we will investigate the enquiry question: How did early invaders and settlers shape Britain? Children will build on their chronological knowledge, analyse Viking primary sources, and compare the Anglo-Saxons, Scots, and Vikings to infer the lasting impact of these periods on British history.

Key Vocabulary: Chronology, Primary Source, Settlement, Migration, Impact, Evidence.



Art and Design

Drawing

This term, children will develop their artistic skills by exploring the enquiry question: How can light, perspective, and pattern bring drawings to life? Children will investigate the effect of light sources on objects and people, practise using perspective to create depth, and refine their figure-drawing accuracy. They will also explore tessellations used by famous artists to create interesting repeating designs.

Key Vocabulary: Perspective, Tessellation, Shadow, Proportion, Depth, Pattern.

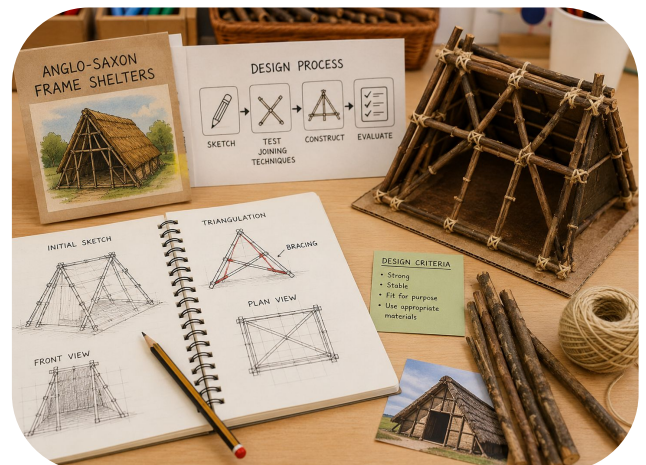


Design and Technology

Anglo-Saxon Frame Shelters

This term, children will explore the enquiry question: How can we design and construct a strong, stable frame structure for an Anglo-Saxon shelter? We will investigate how to reinforce 3D frameworks using bracing and triangulation. As young designers, they will create detailed sketches, test various joining techniques, construct a small-scale shelter, and evaluate its stability against a design criteria.

Key Vocabulary: Structure, Reinforce, Stability, Joint, Design Criteria, Purpose, Evaluate



Music

Introduction to Ukulele

In this unit, the children develop their instrumental skills by learning to play the ukulele. They will learn how to hold and strum the instrument correctly and explore chord structures. Throughout the unit, children listen to different types of chords and learn to play and transition smoothly between chords, using chord sheets and play-along tracks. They also learn how to play as part of an ensemble and build confidence performing.

Key Vocabulary: Strum, Chord, Ukulele, Major, Minor, Tuning peg, Head, Neck, Body



PSHE

Relationships

This term, children will explore what makes relationships healthy, respectful and safe, both online and offline. They will learn about personal boundaries, consent, online safety and where to seek help, while developing empathy, communication and decision-making skills to build positive relationships.

Key Vocabulary: Empathy, Respect, Boundaries, Consent, Confidentiality, Privacy, Healthy relationships



PE and Swimming

Invasion Games and Gymnastics

This term, children will explore Invasion Games with a focus on basketball, learning to apply tactics that enhance team collaboration and overall gameplay. In Gymnastics, children will construct and perform movement sequences by linking action combinations while exploring changes in levels and directions. In swimming, lessons will continue to guide children along their individual swim pathways, prioritising stroke technique refinement, improved efficiency, and essential water safety practices.

Key Vocabulary: Invasion, Tactics, Collaboration, Gameplay, Sequences, Combinations, Pathways, Refinement, Efficiency, Technique.





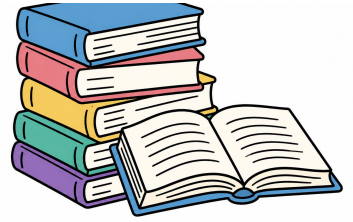
Supporting Learning at Home

Useful websites, activities and ways to help your child.

Make Reading Part of Everyday Life

Encourage your child to read for pleasure, not just as part of their homework. Build reading into your daily routine and choose physical books wherever possible to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Show an interest in what they are reading by asking about the story, characters and what they think might happen next. Talking about books together is one of the best ways to develop confident, enthusiastic readers.



Useful Websites

English	Key Stage 2 English - Topmarks Search Activities for 9-12 years Words for Life The Matchbox Diary kids.britannica - Beowulf
Maths	Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search Primary Students NRICH Times Tables Rock Stars
Science	Key Stage 2 Science - Topmarks Search
Humanities	National Geographic Kids
Computing	Scratch Code.org
Art & Design	Tate Kids
Music	Chrome Music Lab
General Learning	DK Learning

Please supervise your child when accessing websites at home and encourage a balanced approach to screen time.

Support Spelling & Handwriting at Home

A few minutes of regular practice can make a big difference. Encourage your child to practise their weekly spelling words in different ways, such as saying, writing, covering and testing themselves, rather than simply copying them out.

Handwriting is also easy to practise at home. Spending just a few minutes writing neatly in pen, focusing on fluent, joined handwriting, will help develop confidence, speed and presentation across all subjects.

