Year 5

Curriculum Information – Term 2 2026

Dear parents/carers,

What children will be learning this term:

English

In literacy, we will be exploring descriptive writing, poetry, and narratives. Using these genres, the children will have opportunities to include expanded noun phrases, dialogue, adverbial phrases, figurative language, and relative clauses in their writing. We will be reading a narrative text called 'The Promise' and writing our own narratives based on this text. Finally, we will be exploring biographies and studying text such as 'Stone Girl , Bone Girl', 'Fantastically great women who changed the world' and 'Women in science'. In reading, we will be focussing on our new text - 'The Dam' as well as retrieval and inference practice in daily morning reading tasks.

Mathematics

This term Year 5 will be developing their knowledge in multiplication, division and fractions. They will be developing their understanding of multiples, common multiples, factors and common factors, recognising what they are and how they are found. They will also be learning how to find equivalent fractions by simplifying and expanding, and exploring how equivalent fractions represent the same fraction differently. Your child will be more successful at if they are practising their times tables regularly. Times Table Rockstars is a fantastic way of practising rapid recall of multiplication facts.

Science

Pupils will be learning about the concept of forces. They will explore the difference between pushes, pulls and twists and look at a range of forces such as gravity, magnetism, friction, air resistance and water resistance. There will be multiple opportunities for pupils to apply and extend their knowledge through investigations as they explore forces in a hands-on way.

History

This term we will be learning about the Vikings, and if they were just invaders. This unit expands pupils' chronological knowledge of British History, focusing on the Viking struggle for the Kingdom of England.

Design and Technology

We will be learning all about how to design and build a marble run. A marble run is a structure built at different levels, through which a marble can travel. Think of the board game Mouse Trap and you are on the right track! We will design a marble run inspired by ancient temples, and build our own throughout the half-term. We will need lots of household items like toilet rolls and egg cartons, so please send some in with your children.

Computing

Children will be learning how to complete Vector drawings. In this unit learners will find out that vector images are made up of shapes. They will learn how to use the different drawing tools and how images are created in layers. They will explore the ways in which images can be grouped and duplicated to support them in creating more complex pieces of work.

Physical Education

In our games sessions, we will be doing Basketball. In PE, we will be focussing on improving our fitness levels and understanding how exercise is important for a healthy lifestyle.

Religious Education

Our topic this term is 'Identity'. For millions of people around the world, their sense of self (their identity) is tightly connected with their religion or faith. Our key focus for the first few weeks is Hanukah, and how Jewish people celebrate it as a reflection of who they are as people.

Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education

This term, the theme is Anti-Bullying and Friendship. Children will explore the role of the bystander and the role of the up stander as well as different types of bullying.

Music

Children will continue their weekly ukulele lessons with Ms Coles. They will continue to learn notes, correct positioning and strumming.

Spanish

Children will continue to develop their Spanish skills by revisiting verb tenses and masculine and feminine nouns. They will also learn about pets, legends and what celebrations in Spain look like.

Homework

Children are given grammar, spelling and maths homework on Fridays and all homework is due and checked on Wednesday mornings.

Children will be given a **reading record** and are expected to read **every night**, writing a short comment in their record. The book given to them will match their reading ability and is checked each morning.

Spelling will be given out on Friday, they are due on Wednesday and tested every Friday.

PE Kit

Your child needs to wear a PE kit to school on the following days:
Cerise: Tuesday and Thursday
Magenta: Monday and Wednesday

Ways to help your child

- Bring them to school every day
- Get them to school on time: 8.35 am.
- Make sure they are in bed at a reasonable hour and have a good night's sleep.
- Encourage them to eat breakfast. It is essential for concentration.
- Your child has homework every week (handed out on Fridays and due on Wednesdays). Try to find time to discuss it. Try and make sure they have time and space to do it well.
- Help them practise their times tables. Times Table Rockstars is excellent!
- Visit the library.
- Make sure your child is wearing the correct uniform and P.E. kit.

- Use the internet to find out about class projects.
- Visit museums and galleries that relate to class projects.
- Offer encouragement and praise.
- Book a time to come and see us if you are worried about **anything.**

The Year 5 team are:

Cerise: Ms McTaggart and Ms Amini
Magenta: Ms Henley

Mrs Nwandison is the Phase Lead for Year 5/6.

Dates for the diary:

- Year 5 Go Live show - date TBC
- Lion King Theatre Trip - Wednesday 4th November (late return to school)

Year 5 Unit 2: Forces — Knowledge organiser

Science Mastery

Forces

Forces are pushes, pulls, or twists.

Forces can:

- cause an object to start moving or change its speed
- change the direction an object is moving
- change the shape of an object.

Friction

Friction is the force that acts when two objects rub against each other.

Friction:

- produces heat
- always slows objects down
- is sometimes useful but at other times it is not useful.

Gravity...

- is the pull of objects towards Earth. This is also called weight and measured in Newtons (N).
- was first described by Isaac Newton.
- keeps planets in orbit around the Sun.



Air resistance

Air resistance is a type of friction that slows down objects moving through air.

Friction always acts in the opposite direction to the way you are moving.

If you are moving downwards, then the friction (air resistance) acts upwards.



Water resistance

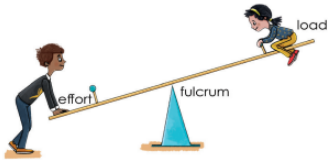
Water resistance is a type of friction that slows down objects moving through water.

Streamlining reduces the effects of water resistance.

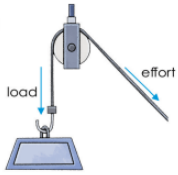
Simple machines

Levers

Levers make a small force bigger.



Pulleys



Pulleys can change the direction of a force.

Gears



Machines can make a force bigger.

Machines can change the direction of a force.

Cogs can turn to change the direction of a force.

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Year 5 Unit 2: Forces — Useful vocabulary

Science Mastery

Word	Definition
air resistance	Friction that acts on objects moving through air.
cogs	Toothed wheels that can lock with each other.
effort	The force you apply to change the position of a load.
force	What changes the direction, speed or shape of an object.
friction	The force that slows down movement when two objects are touching.
fulcrum	In a lever, it is the point where the beam rests or pivots (turns).
gear	Cogs that lock together and turn, changing the force.
gravity	A force that pulls objects towards each other.
lever	A machine with a beam that rests on a fixed point (fulcrum): it is designed to make a small force bigger.
load	The object that is being lifted.
mass	The amount of 'stuff' something is made up of: it is measured in grams (g) or kilograms (kg).
newton meter	Equipment used to measure the forces acting on an object.
newtons	The unit of force.
pull	A force that moves an object towards something else.
pulley	A machine with a wheel and rope that changes the direction of a force making it easier to exert.
push	A force that moves an object away from something else.
streamlined	A shape designed to reduce air or water resistance.
twist	A force that turns an object.
water resistance	Friction that acts on objects moving through water.
weight	The force of Earth (gravity) acting on an object due to its mass: it is measured in newtons (N).

Year 5 Unit 2: Vikings — Knowledge organiser

History Mastery

Who were the Vikings?



- Vikings left their homes in Scandinavia and sailed in longships to other parts of Europe.
- Longships could sail in shallow water, so they could travel up rivers and across seas.
- Vikings lived simply and comfortably with their families in longhouses.

Danelaw

After King Alfred's victory at the Battle of Edington, Guthrum withdrew from Wessex and agreed to divide England.

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The Vikings settled in the Danelaw, where York was the most important city.

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Many Anglo-Saxons lived peacefully in the Danelaw as long as they followed Danish law.

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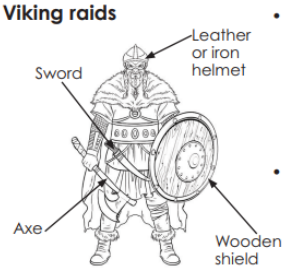
Edward the Elder and his sister Aethelflaed conquered the Danelaw.



Trade

- The Vikings travelled buying and selling many goods.
- Excavations and analysis of Viking hoards show us how far the Vikings travelled and traded.

Viking raids



- In England, Vikings raided religious buildings. These were easy to find and contained gold and silver.
- Vikings believed dying in battle would help them reach Valhalla (heaven).

Viking rule

Edward's son, Athelstan, was the first king of all England.



Edward the Confessor

↓

In the late 10th century, Viking raids began again. King Ethelred fought them using the Danegeld.

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Danish king Sweyn Forkbeard conquered England. His son, King Cnut, ruled England, Denmark, and Norway peacefully.

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In 1042, Edward the Confessor became king after 25 years of Danish rule.

790CE Viking age began

874CE Vikings had conquered all English kingdoms except Wessex

1042 Edward the Confessor became king

1066 Viking period ended

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Year 5 Unit 2: Vikings — Useful vocabulary

History Mastery

Word	Definition
artefact	An object made by humans that is studied by archaeologists.
battle	A sustained fight between armies.
chieftain	A leader of the people and a law-speaker who oversees decisions.
conquer	To invade and control a country or place.
Danegeld	Money paid to viking raiders to make them leave without causing damage.
Danelaw	The name given to the parts of england ruled under the laws of the vikings (or danes).
defeated	Losing in a game or battle.
excavation	Digging in the ground to look for old objects or buildings to discover things about the past.
Freya	Norse goddess of love, war, and death.
goods	Things that can be bought and sold.
Guthrum	Viking ruler who was defeated by King Alfred in the Battle of Edington.
heathen	A person who follows a religion other than one of the main world religions, e.g., A non-christian. It is usually used as an insult.
hierarchy	The structure of a society, with members ranked according to status or authority.
hoard	A collection of valuables found altogether.
homelands	A person's native country, e.g., Scandinavia for the Vikings.
longhouse	Long, narrow building with a single room to house multiple people.
longship	A long, narrow ship, powered by both oar and sail, with many rowers.

Word	Definition
monastery	A building where monks live and work.
Norse	Belonging or relating to medieval Scandinavia.
people	Men, women, and children of a particular country or nation.
priory	A religious house governed by a prior or prioress.
raid	A rapid surprise attack, usually involving stealing something.
reign	The time when someone is king or queen.
revenge	Harming someone in return for harm they have done to you.
Scandinavia	A region in Northern Europe consisting of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden in the time of the Vikings.
territory	An area of land under the control of a ruler or state.
Thing	A community gathering where problems would be solved and decisions made.
Thor	God of thunder and the sky in Norse mythology.
trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services.
treasure	A store of precious metals or jewels.
truce	When enemies create an agreement to stop fighting for a time.
unification	Being made into a whole or the process of being united.
Valhalla	The hall in Norse mythology where Odin met the souls of dead warriors.
Viking	A Scandinavian trader and pirate in the 8th–11th centuries.