

## Curriculum Letter for Year 5 - Spring 1 2026

### General Information

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to some exciting topics and events. This half term, children will be immersed in an exciting space theme woven through a variety of subjects.

### Curriculum

**Maths:** This half term we will focus on reading, writing and *comparing decimals* and rounding decimals to the nearest whole number. The pupils will also be representing, identifying, naming, writing, ordering and comparing fractions. After that, we will be classifying, comparing, and ordering *angles*. We end the half term measuring angles with a protractor and using angle facts to calculate missing angles.

**English:** We start with *Curiosity* by Markus Motum, which explores the themes of exploration and discovery and links to our units in Art, French and Science. We will use cohesive devices to expand and explain, use the passive voice and write a short news report. Finally, students will draw together their learning to write an expanded explanation text.

After this, to link our historical learning on the Kingdom of Benin we will study *Children of the Benin Kingdom* by Dinah Orji. The students will compare characters, write letters and diary entries in role and offer advice. Throughout, children will be gathering information and building the skills towards writing a non-chronological report on the Kingdom of Benin.

**Science:** Our unit this half term is '*Out of This World*'. The children learn about space, starting with the Solar System. Next, they will look at how ideas about space have changed over time before they explore what causes us to experience night and day on Earth. For this unit, pupils will be given a project to showcase their knowledge about the Solar System. This is to be completed at home.

**History:** Our history unit this half term is a study of *The Kingdom of Benin 1500-1750*. In this unit, we will be learning how the Kingdom was ruled, it's growth and decline. To learn about and see the real Benin artefacts and consolidate our learning from this unit, we will be visiting the wonderful *Benin Bronzes* at the British Museum.

**Art:** In Art, we will be enhancing our drawing skills, looking at *retro-futurism* (a contemporary look at futuristic art) and ending with a mix of print and drawing. We will study space imagery and how to make drawing decisions. After that we will create a print inspired by Dutch artist *Teis Albers*, develop ideas in our sketch books and finally revise our ideas to make a final piece.

**RE:** We will be learning about Sikhism by studying the question, 'How did the first five Sikh Gurus shape Sikhism?' This involves looking at how Sikhism developed with each Guru, what practices today are influenced by the teachings of the Gurus and the importance of equality in Sikhism.

**PSHE:** In this half term we will begin the unit '*Family and Relationships*'. In this, we will describe what qualities a good friend should have and recognise that friendships have ups and downs. We will then move on to marriages and families and look how these have changed. Circle time sessions will be included in some of the weekly lessons.

**French:** Following the Space theme in Art, English and Science, we are learning about the planets. The children will name and label the planets. They will learn new grammar rules using French conjunctions and

## Curriculum Letter for Year 5 - Spring 1 2026

adjectives. After that we will learn how to ask and answer key questions in French and write our own astronaut job applications.

### PE Days

Outdoor PE is timetabled for Thursdays with Coach Kymani. All children must wear their PE kits to school. We also have indoor PE on Mondays (5B) and Wednesdays (5W). Indoor PE kits will stay in school.

### Reading and Spellings

**Reading at home:** Children may read a book from home or school. Their reading record must be bought home daily and acknowledged by an adult at home weekly.

**Reading at school:** Children may pick a book from the class selection or from home. Reading records should be updated daily by the pupil and will be checked by staff weekly.

**Spellings:** We will be looking at a different spelling rule weekly. This may be reinforced through our spelling homework. The statutory spellings for Y5 and 6 have been uploaded to Teams. These will be practised and used in writing throughout the year.

### Homework

Homework will be set every Friday on *Teams* and is due in the following Wednesday. Children may also be set homework on MyMaths or Purple Mash – this will be indicated on the work set on *Teams*.

### Key Dates

Children's Mental Health Week	w/c Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Y5 Horniman Museum workshop	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb (in school)
Half Term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Start of Spring 2 Term	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February