



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn Term 2026/2027

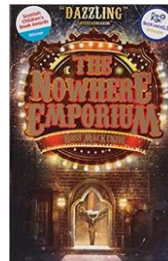


To all our parents and carers,

We are delighted to share with you the content of the Year 5 curriculum for this term. We hope that this gives you a window into your child's learning and enables you to have conversations with your child about what is going on in school.

ENGLISH – reading

Our fantastic novel for the Autumn term in Year 5 is 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross McKenzie. This award winning novel combines fantasy, mystery and suspense!



In our reading comprehension sessions, the children also experience both fiction and non-fiction texts, based on a range of subjects relating to the whole curriculum. Phonics interventions will be taking place to support children who require them.

Your child will be receiving a reading book to bring home. Please read with your child at least four times a week.

Further details about English homework will be sent out in a separate letter.

ENGLISH – writing

Narrative writing:

Linking to our novel, the children will create their own fantasy story based on 'The Nowhere Emporium'.

They will also create their own adventure stories based upon the short film, 'Wing'.

Poetry:

The whole school will be exploring the anthology 'Midnight Feasts', compiled by A.F. Harrold. Year 5 will explore free verse, before letting their imaginations loose on their own poems.

Persuasive letters

We will encourage the children to find a real life context in which to apply the skills learnt in this unit.

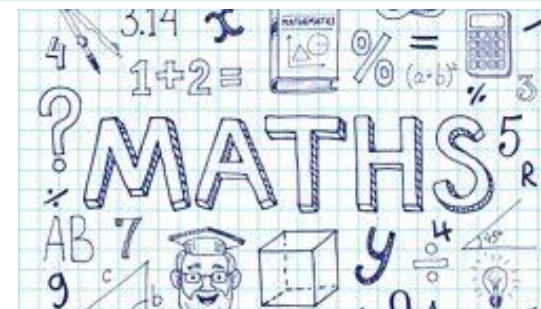
GRAMMAR:

This term, we will cover:

- Types of nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs.
- Expanded noun phrases
- Converting nouns/adjectives into verbs
- Correct punctuation of direct speech

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place twice weekly in class, with children this term adding suffixes to root words to change tense or to create adjectives/plurals.



This term we will cover the following topics:

- place value of numbers up to a million
- addition
- subtraction
- multiplication
- division
- fractions.

For each topic, we work through the following sequence, encouraging the mastery approach in Maths which helps the children to apply their knowledge:

1. We practise the skill.
2. We answer reasoning questions based on the skill.
3. We problem solve, applying the skill we have learnt.

You can view our calculation policy on the school website, which may help you to understand how we teach Maths in school.

<https://www.spcj.co.uk/letters/> We will also complete weekly basic skills sessions, which help the children to practise core mathematical skills

Details about Maths homework will be sent out in a separate letter.

RE



In Year 5, pupils deepen their understanding of how God's law, Jesus' teaching and the work of the Holy Spirit guide Christians to live lives of love, service and discipleship. Learning focuses on moral choices, prayer and living out faith in the world today.

Creation and Covenant

In this brand new unit, our children explore the story of creation, God's relationship with humanity, and key covenants in salvation history. Year 5's learning focuses on God's covenant through Moses. We will look at the Ten Commandments and how Christians can make good choices and live life to the full through God's Law.

Prophecy and Promise

After half term, we will move to study the story of King David and how God's promises were fulfilled both to and through him. We will think of David as both shepherd and servant leader. During Advent, we will consider the links between David and Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Daily prayer and weekly Celebrations of the Word are also held in class and as a year group. We will be inviting parents to join us in prayer in a Celebration of the Word in the run up to Christmas.

PSHE

Rights and Responsibilities

In this topic in Year 5, the children will explore the rights and responsibilities that come with being a citizen. They will discuss the importance of democracy, relating this practically to our School Council. During this topic, the children will think about how they can use their own voice positively, whilst also participating in group decision making

Cultural similarities and differences

Year 5 pupils will think about cultural similarities and differences and how sometimes these can lead to conflict. They will develop their understanding and awareness of racism.

Resisting peer pressure

This unit covers a range of concepts. In an age appropriate way, ideas such as bodily autonomy, substance abuse, and cyberbullying are explored and discussed. Children are shown ways to get help if they are concerned about any of these areas.

Promoting physical and mental wellbeing is central to our curriculum approach and forms part of our daily life within school. We also aim to support these further by celebrating **Firework Safety**, **'Hello Yellow Day'** for world mental health, **Antibullying Week** and **Road Safety Week**. Watch out for further details later this term!

SCIENCE

Properties and changes of materials

Pupils will revisit solids, liquids and gases, exploring reversible and irreversible changes between these states.

Animals including humans

We will investigate the changes that happen to living organisms as they develop, from birth to old age.

HISTORY

'What impact did the Anglo Saxons have?'

In this unit, the children will explore the world of the Anglo Saxons: where and why they came to Britain? They will look at archaeological artefacts and primary sources to help them gain a full understanding of day to day life during this period. They will also consider the different interpretations of the impact of the Anglo Saxons in England and devise their own opinions on whether this era truly deserves to be called the 'Dark Ages'.

Black History Month (October) is also a focus in our school and, in both assemblies and lessons, children will be researching and learning about figures from black history who have contributed to our world and who have much to teach us about resilience and respect.

GEOGRAPHY

'Where should we go on holiday?'

The question the children will investigate is 'Is Climate Cool?' In this unit, the children will learn to read weather and climate maps, and learn how weather and climate can be seen in specific world climate zones, such as the polar regions, rainforests and the tropics. They will explore the climate, flora, fauna and also the human activity in these zones.

In this unit, the children learn about the Alpine region of Europe, how the Alps were formed and how homes are adapted to the climate. They will use both physical and political maps to research this location.



ART

'Anglo Saxon treasures'

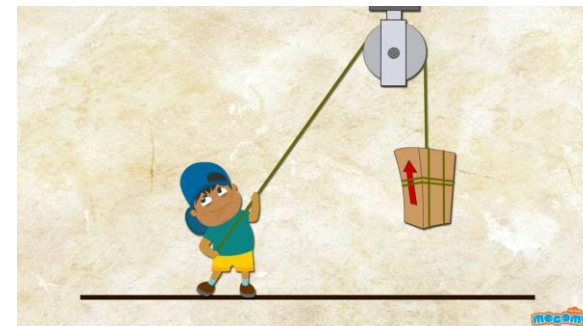
This term, the children will explore the art of the potter Lucie Rie as well as the Anglo-Saxon treasures discovered at Sutton Hoo. Using these techniques, the children will design and create their own treasure sculptures.



DT

Pulleys

The children will explore pulley mechanisms, designing, creating and evaluating a moving toy.



SPANISH

Our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children how to talk about themselves, their family and their friends. The children will also be taught how to explain if they are feeling unwell.

“Nos gusta aprender español en St Paul’s.”

On September 27th, the school will be celebrating **European Languages Day**, with the children taking part in activities promoting the richness and diversity of the languages spoken in our continent.

MUSIC

‘When I grow up’

This unit is based around famous songs from musical theatre. Not only will the children learn and perform different songs, they will also develop their understanding of notation, dynamics, rhythm and pitch.

COMPUTING

‘Web designer’

In this activity the children will learn about the history of the web, basic HTML, how to create their own graphics and how to publish their own website.

PE

Basketball

In this unit pupils develop their understanding of the attacking and defending principles of invasion games. In all games activities, pupils have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition.

Gymnastics

In this unit pupils develop balancing, rolling, jumping and inverted movements. They explore partner relationships such as canon and synchronisation and matching and mirroring.

Swimming

All Year 5 children will participate in 6 Swimming sessions at the Liverpool Aquatics Centre in Wavertree. Separate information will be sent out to parents regarding this.

We hope that you find this newsletter helpful. Further information on our curriculum and how we teach can be found on the school website. We will be adding further to this over the year.

Follow us on Instagram (@spcjliverpool) where we share the excellent learning that goes on at St. Paul’s.

If you have any questions about our curriculum, or any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

The Year 5 teaching team:

Mr. Tunstall, Mrs. Flynn, Mr. Garritty and Mrs. Stewart