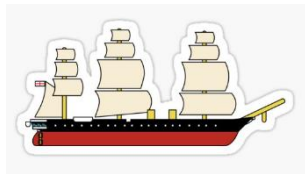


British Maritime History



Year 5
Curriculum Newsletter
Spring Term 2026


<p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>5WH Mr Harvey-Sinclair, Year Leader 5RS Miss Sealy 5KC/FS Mrs Cummin/Mrs Sutton</p> <p><u>Additional Staff</u></p> <p>Mrs Cleeve</p> <p><u>Learning Support Assistants:</u></p> <p>Miss Treacher Mrs Wells Miss Moon-Brewer Miss Coney-Jones</p>	<p>Year 5 key dates:</p> <p>Tuesday 13th January Wednesday 28th January Thursday 29th January Tuesday 10th February Thursday 12th February Friday 13th February Monday 23rd February Thursday 5th March Monday 16th March Tuesday 17th March Friday 27th March Monday 13th April</p>	<p>Planetarium Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Visit PTA Meeting 6:30pm Parents Open Morning 9:00am-10:00am Year 5 & 6 disco – 6:00pm-7:15pm Last Day of term Return to School World Book Day Parent Consultations 3:30pm-6:30pm Parent Consultations 3:30pm-6:30pm Last Day of Term Return to School</p>
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Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break and have returned to school happy, healthy and excited for the opportunities that 2026 will bring!

Much of our work in the first half term will focus on our exciting **History** project, exploring **Maritime History of Britain**. The children will learn about and compare life on land and life on sea in the **Tudor** and **Victorian** periods. A visit to **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard** will help us discover more about life on board **The Mary Rose and HMS Warrior**.

In the second half of the term, we will be moving onto a **Geography** project, exploring **Biomes and Climate Zones**, focusing on **South America**. The children will discover the location of this continent, including the countries it is made up of, and its location in relation to the rest of the world. They will explore and discover the many wonders of the Amazon Rainforest and look at the impact of deforestation on the forest and on the wider world.

English –will begin the term by using an animation **‘The Piano’** to create **narrative** and study the use of vocabulary to create mood. We will also write a variety of texts based on short, maritime themed stories told to us by Chris Connaughton including *The Odyssey*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *Treasure Island*. Following this, we will study **recounts**, **writing newspaper reports** based on the events of **Phillippe Petit’s – ‘Man on Wire.’** Next, we will use a text called **‘Children of the Quicksands’** for a unit of work focusing on **narrative writing**. Each class will also begin reading a class reader, **‘The Explorer’ by Katherine Rundell**, which will lead into piece of writing towards the end of the term. Set in the Amazon, this text builds the children’s knowledge of South America in preparation for the **Geography** project later in the term.

 **Mathematics** - the key themes of learning this term are **fractions, perimeter and area** followed by **multiplication and division**. We will then complete another unit of work on **fractions**, and also **decimals and percentages**. **Problem solving** and **reasoning** will remain a focus throughout each lesson and unit.

Science – the children enjoyed the learning experience of the mobile **Planetarium**, reinforcing the science project we have been focusing on since November which has been **‘Earth and Space’**. We are pleased to have a visiting planetarium for the children to have a rich experience of our solar system.

We will be exploring **force** in action and investigating the effects of friction on moving objects. We will look at the effect of air resistance on parachutes with different surface areas, and water resistance on different shaped objects.

Design & Technology - we will be tasting, designing and making **salads**, considering seasonality and availability of ingredients and making a product to fit a brief.

Computing - the children will continue to work on **computer programming** with a focus on count control loops and conditions. We will also use ICT for learning internet research techniques.

Art – the children will be using the knowledge and learning from their history project to **sketch, paint and sculpt** boats. The children will use different medium including pencils, watercolours and clays to achieve this.



PE - will be on **Wednesday** afternoons. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school - plain white t-shirts, black or navy-blue shorts and for the outside, school fleeces or school jumpers (not tops with brand logos), black or navy-blue tracksuit bottoms and trainers. This term, we will be covering a range of **skills across dance, football and tennis**. The children will be encouraged to make improvements on their movement and ball skills as well as our upholding school values of teamwork and respect in our PE lessons.

RE - we will explore the themes of living '**A Good Life**' in **Humanism** and what this looks like in our local community and **Salvation in Christianity**, linking to the **Easter story**.

PSHE - our units will look at '**Being My Best**'. We will then explore themes of '**Rights and Responsibilities**'.

Music- The children will be learning how to play the **ukulele**, learning about how to tune and play the instruments as well as performing in an ensemble. The children will continue to develop their reading of musical notation.

French - we will be continue looking at the theme of **space** and describing the **planets**, which is linked to the science project work. We will then be using the story '**La Souris qui cherche un ami**', building on their **animal vocabulary** from Year 4.

Homework



Spellings - are given out on a **Monday** and tested the following **Monday**. These will be in your child's homework diaries each week.

English homework - will be issued on a **Monday** and checked the following **Monday**. This will alternate between a grammar activity on Google Classroom linked to our learning and time spent using Reading Plus (minimum of 30 minutes).

Maths homework – is issued on Mathletics on a **Monday** and checked the following **Monday**. In addition to tasks, we would like children to **practise their times tables regularly**, aiming to improve their speed and accuracy of recall. The government's expectation is that children will **know their multiplication tables** by the time they leave Year 4, therefore they should be recalling these with increasing accuracy in Year 5.

How can you help?

Reading — Please find time to read daily with your child and ask questions about the characters and their motives, the story setting, plot and subject matter. Help them to develop a love of reading.

Home Learning — Help your child to complete their homework where necessary; help them to build structure into their week and a regular routine; encourage them to be responsible for meeting deadlines.

Spellings and Tables — Support your child with spelling and times-tables practice, in preparation for our weekly tests. **TT Rock Stars** is an excellent way for your child to build their fluency and rapid recall of multiplication and division facts. In Year 5, children are **expected to score at least 20/25 on the sound check game** on **TT Rockstars**.

Mathletics and Reading Plus — will be set as homework, however we also expect these to be completed regularly at home. Reading Plus should be used at least twice a week at home.

Help your child to locate and research information on our projects. Any interesting snippets and relevant pictures/objects can be brought into class for sharing with the other children.



Please ensure that your child has their **homework diary** in school every day so that important messages can be sent home. We will sign the homework diaries **every Friday** and request that you sign them beforehand (**Thursday evening**) so that we know you have seen them.

Should you have any ideas, concerns, questions or comments, please feel free to catch up with us after school for a quick, informal chat or make an appointment for a lengthier discussion.

Alternatively, you can write a comment in your child's **homework diary** - please make sure your child knows the comment is in there so that they can bring it to show us. Your queries can then be addressed swiftly instead of being delayed until the next scheduled Parents' Evening. Children's homework diaries will be **signed by the teacher** each week on **Friday**, please make sure you have reviewed their diary and signed the evening before.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you to **label** any **property** belonging to your child to make it easier to return when it is misplaced.

Thank you for your continued support. From Mr Harvey-Sinclair - Year Leader - and the Year 5 Team.