

# South America




## Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 2026

<p><b>Staff</b></p> <p>5WH Mr Harvey-Sinclair, Year Leader  5RS Miss Sealy  5KC/FS Mrs Cummin/Mrs Sutton</p> <p><b>Learning Support Assistants:</b></p> <p>Mrs Wells  Miss Treacher  Miss Moon Brewer</p>	<p><b>Year 5 key dates:</b></p> <p>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May  Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May  Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June  Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June  Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June  Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June  Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June  Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July  Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July  Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July  Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</p>	<p>Bank Holiday  Last Day of Term  Inset Day  Return to School  Sports Day  Summer Fayre  Class Photos  Change-Over-Day  Music and Art Festival – 6:30pm  Year 5 Parents Open Morning – 9:00am  Reserve Sports Day  Reports Home to Parents  Whole School Open Afternoon for Parents 3-5pm  Break up for Summer Holiday</p>
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Welcome back for our Summer Term. We are looking forward to the many exciting learning opportunities that we have planned this term, especially our South America and Ancient Maya projects. We hope the children continue their excellent progress this term.

**Geography** - In the first half of the term, our geography will focus on **South America**. Children will learn about the different biomes of the world and how these fit with the tropical rainforest biome of the Amazon. They will learn about the **physical geography of South America** before concentrating on the Amazon Rainforest and Amazon River. Children will learn about indigenous people of the rainforest and how their lives are adapted to living in a rainforest biome. We will learn about the global issue of deforestation and how this impacts the Amazon and what can be done to help.




**History** – In the second half term, we will be introducing the children to the **Ancient Mayans** to provide **contrast** with other **ancient civilisations**. This civilisation is unique and it is hoped that pupils genuinely feel they are learning something completely new. Children will learn about the growth of the **Mayan civilization** and then its sudden disappearance. They will learn about the unique aspects of life in the Ancient Mayan civilization.

**English** – Each class will read as their class reader, **‘The Explorer’** by Katherine Rundell. Set in the Amazon, this text is an exciting story which builds the children’s knowledge of South America and the Amazon rainforest and supports our **Geography** project. Children will write diaries as characters from the story and also consider how the author builds our opinions of characters throughout the text.

Next, the children will be investigating the writing style of **documentary and mockumentary** and will use these features in their own piece of writing, highlighting issues surrounding plastic waste left in our local environment.

The year 5 focus on **spelling, punctuation and grammar** will continue throughout the term, and we will be recapping and revising key skills taught so far this year.

**Mathematics** - The key themes of learning this term are the study of **shapes and angles, position and direction, converting units of measurement and volume**. In addition, we will be spending time revising and recapping the areas of maths taught so far this year. These include **fractions, decimals and percentages** and **multiplication and division** of 2, 3 and 4-digit numbers using formal written methods.



**Science** - Children will be investigating **properties and changes in materials**, including separating mixtures and reversible changes. Later in the term, they will be learning about **animal classification and life cycles**.

**Computing/IT** - The children will be about conditional and action controlled loops in **computer programming**.

**Design Technology** - We will learn about **bridge design**, about how to build stable structures using different architectural designs. Children will work in groups to design and build a bridge to fit a given criteria.

**French** – We will be studying the story 'La Souris qui cherche un ami' to learn about describing animals and moving on to 'Je vais', describing things that we like to do.

**RE** - We will be studying **special** places of worship in **Islam** and **Sikh Traditions** within our unit on **Sacred**. We will then learn about **Ummah**, the Muslim concept of **community**.

**PSHE** - We will learn about our rights and respecting others' rights. In the second half of the term, we will learn about the subjects of **relationships and puberty** including scientific names for body parts and how bodies change as they grow. (Details to follow).

**Art** - The children will be using their knowledge of the Ancient Mayans to study **Mayan art** and create a **sculpture** of the human form from wire.

**Music** – We will be exploring **timbre** and **texture** while being creative considering musical layers and styles when composing our own space-themed soundtrack

**PE** - We will be exploring **athletics and rounders and tennis** this term. Our PE day is **Wednesday** so please ensure your child brings their correct PE kit to school on this day as they will be getting changed at school - plain white t-shirts, black or navy-blue shorts and for the outside, school fleeces (not tops with brand logos) or school jumper, black or navy-blue tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls for indoors / trainers for outdoors. We will also be completing swimming lessons on a **Wednesday**, so please ensure that your child has their swimming kit. No jewellery to be worn for PE lessons and hair tied up for safety reasons.



**Spellings** - are given out on a **Monday** and tested the following **Monday**.

**English homework** - is issued on a **Monday** and checked on the following **Monday**. This will be mainly (at least) 30 minutes of **Reading Plus** and (at least) 15 minutes on **Spellzone**. There may be occasions when activities are set on **Google Classroom** and the children will be advised if this is the case.

**Maths homework** - is issued on a **Monday** and checked on the following **Monday**. This will be activities set on **Mathletics** or **TT Rockstars**.

Please do ensure that your child is completing their homework and spelling practice. It is vital for their preparation for the next stage of education as they move into year 6 and beyond.

In addition to their set tasks, we would like children to **practise their times tables regularly** by logging into **TT Rockstars**, aiming to improve their speed and accuracy of recall.

### How can you help?

Please find time to read with your child at least three times a week and ask questions about the characters and their motives, the story setting, plot and subject matter. Supporting your child in this way will help them to develop a love of reading. The children should write about their reading in their homework diaries which should be signed by you on a Thursday, ready for the teacher to check each Friday. We will also be focusing on comprehension during guided reading in class.

Please ensure your child is completing their homework to a good standard each week. It is vital to prepare them for their next stage of education.

Take time to talk to your child about the **projects** they will be studying and help support them with their home learning – perhaps a visit to the local library to find out more about South America and Ancient Maya.

Support your child with **spelling and times-tables practice**, in preparation for our weekly tests.

Help your child to locate and research information on our topics.

Useful websites;

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2) (revision of core subjects)

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/south-america-facts.html> (South America)

[www.google.com/earth](http://www.google.com/earth) (virtual globe)

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround) (topical news stories)



Finally, 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. Please make sure to sign your child's homework diary by Thursday as they will be signed by the teacher each week on Friday.

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