Year 5	Autumn Term Overview 2026-2027

English Reading:
This term in English, Year 5 will be exploring a rich variety of texts—*The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown, *Two Weeks with the Queen* by Morris Gleitzman, *The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander, and *On the Move: Poems About Migration* by Michael Rosen. Through these stories and poems, we will be making strong links to our PSHE curriculum by discussing important themes such as belonging, empathy, resilience, family, and understanding different life experiences and cultures.

Ways you can support at home:

Read together regularly: ask open-ended questions about how the characters might be feeling or how they overcome challenges.

Share your own family stories: discuss positive news stories about people helping others, or explore poetry together. These are wonderful ways to build their confidence, vocabulary, and emotional understanding.

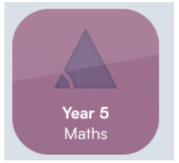
English Writing:

In English this term, our writing will be inspired by four rich and thought-provoking texts: *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* by Rob Sanders, *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold, and *Leila and the Blue Fox* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. Through these stories, the children will explore big ideas that link closely to our PSHE curriculum, including celebrating diversity, standing up for equality, overcoming fear of the unknown, and caring for our planet and family relationships.

Ways you can support at home:

Discuss the themes of these books together: talk about historical figures who have championed human rights, and share news stories about the environment.

Read together daily: encouraging your child to explain their opinions on the characters' choices will also greatly build their vocabulary and confidence in class.



Maths

This term in Maths, Year 5 will be building confidence with large numbers up to 1,000,000, deepening their understanding of place value, and tackling negative numbers and Roman numerals. We will strengthen formal written methods for addition, subtraction, long multiplication, and short division, while exploring special number properties such as factors, multiples, primes, squares, and cubes. Finally, we will develop our skills with fractions—comparing, ordering, adding, subtracting, and multiplying them, as well as finding fractions of amounts. Throughout the term, our maths learning will link closely with **Science** (interpreting data, temperature scales, and measurements) and **Design & Technology** (scaling recipes, measuring materials accurately, and calculating quantities).

Ways you can support at home:

- **Spot big numbers and Roman numerals:** Look out for large numbers in the news, sports crowds, or house prices, and ask your child to read them aloud or round them to the nearest 10,000. Keep an eye out for Roman numerals on clock faces, buildings, or at the end of TV programmes and films to work out the year.
- **Explore negative numbers:** Check weather forecasts together, especially during colder months, to discuss temperatures dropping below zero and calculate the difference between daytime highs and overnight lows.
- **Practise times tables and number facts:** Quick recall of times tables up to 12 × 12 is essential for Year 5 fractions, factors, and formal multiplication/division. Short, regular games or quizzes on the walk to school make a huge difference.
- **Cook and bake together:** Involve your child in weighing ingredients (multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1,000 to convert between grams and kilograms) and use recipes to practise scaling quantities up or down using fractions.
- **Talk through everyday calculations:** When shopping or budgeting for a family outing, ask your child to estimate totals mentally and explain how they worked out change or multi-step costs.

Science
This term in Year 5 Science, your child is exploring two fascinating topics: **Animals Including Humans** and **Forces**. In our human biology lessons, we will investigate how our bodies change from birth to old age, focusing on how healthy lifestyle choices, regular exercise, and different substances (including medicines and drugs) impact both our physical growth and how clearly we think. We will also learn how looking after ourselves helps our vital internal organs work efficiently throughout our lives. Moving into physics, our **Forces** unit will examine how the invisible, non-contact force of gravity pulls objects toward the center of the Earth, alongside hands-on experiments testing how contact forces like friction, air resistance, and water resistance slow moving things down. Pupils will also get to build and test simple mechanisms—such as levers, pulleys, and gears—to see how a small push or pull can be multiplied into a much larger force. These lessons connect directly to our **Maths** work through measuring, timing, and graphing our test results, as well as our **PSHE** curriculum as we discuss keeping our bodies and minds safe and healthy.

Kapow Primary

PSHE
This term in **PSHE**, Year 5 pupils will explore two key themes: building healthy relationships and staying safe in the online world.

In our **Connecting with others** unit, we are asking, *"Why are healthy relationships important?"* Pupils will investigate how their own experiences, values, and beliefs shape their identity and influence the choices they make. They will look at the role of commitment and support within families, learn practical strategies for building and maintaining positive friendships, and ensure they know exactly where and how to seek help if they ever feel unsafe.

Alongside this, our **The online world** unit asks, *"How am I influenced by what I see online?"* Linked closely to our **Year 5 Computing** curriculum, pupils will examine how advertising, social media influencers, and persuasive design can impact their decisions and spending habits. Through practical discussions, they will build essential critical thinking skills to spot potential online scams and develop safe, confident strategies for handling peer pressure and persuasion.

Year 5	Autumn Term Overview 2026-2027

History - Local Area - Castles and Stately Homes

This term, Year 5 will explore how our local landscape changed from a dangerous, wild border zone into a peaceful region of wealthy estates. We will investigate how the English monarchy took firmer control of the whole country, uniting the kingdoms and ending centuries of cross-border raids. Students will learn how this **centralisation** of royal power shifted **power structures**, meaning local nobles no longer needed private armies or heavily fortified castles for protection. Instead, to show off their wealth and **socio-political status**, families transformed their grim medieval fortresses into grand, comfortable stately homes. Alongside our history lessons, we will use **Geography** to map how the rugged terrain influenced where castles were built, and **Art** to study the architectural changes from thick stone battlements to decorative gardens and portraits.

Geography - Local Area - Castles and Stately Homes

In our **Geography** topic this term, we are exploring how the landscape of our local area, **Northumberland**, changed dramatically over time. For centuries, this region was a wild, dangerous border zone caught in constant fighting between England and Scotland, which meant the land was shaped by thick stone castles, defensive walls, and rugged, uncultivated terrain built for survival. Once the monarchy united the crowns and took total control of the country, peace finally came to the borders, leading to the **demilitarisation** of the area. With the threat of invasion gone, wealthy landowners transformed their bleak fortresses into grand stately homes, reshaping the surrounding wild countryside into peaceful agricultural farmland and carefully designed parklands to show off their new wealth and status. Throughout this unit, your child will investigate how shifting **economic activity** transformed our local environment, while making exciting cross-curricular links to **History** and **Art**.

RE

In RE, your child will be exploring two major units: **"What is it like for someone to follow God?"** (looking at the story of Noah and covenants) and **"What matters most to Humanists and Christians?"** (comparing religious and non-religious views on morality). Through the story of Noah, the children will learn how trusting and obeying God involves entering into a **covenant** (a sacred, unbreakable promise), comparing how God's promise is marked by the rainbow to how people make lifelong commitments at a wedding. Moving on to Christian and Humanist worldviews, pupils will investigate why people make good or bad choices—looking at Christian ideas of being made in God's image versus being "fallen," alongside Humanist beliefs that people can be "good without God". They will debate the helper-and-hinderer realities of following a moral code and reflect on their own values in school and the wider world.

Computing

This term in **Year 5 Computing**, the children will explore how information travels across the globe and develop their digital storytelling skills. In our Computer Systems and Networks unit, they will learn the difference between a local area network (LAN)—like the one connecting devices inside our school—and a wide area network (WAN), which forms the wider internet. They will investigate the vital roles that routers and IP addresses play in ensuring data reaches the right destination safely. Moving into Creating Media, the class will become video editors, learning how to sequence video clips and still images, trim footage, add smooth transitions, and layer audio or titles to improve the flow of their stories. Throughout both units, we will make strong links to **PSHE**, discussing how to stay safe, respectful, and responsible online when sharing media and communicating across networks.

Art

Working with colour - Watercolour - Castles

This term in Art, our **Year 5 pupils will be exploring how to capture mood and atmosphere using watercolours**, taking inspiration from historic castles. Through this unit, the children will be learning to mix subtle, desaturated colour palettes to evoke misty mornings and dramatic, stormy skies over ancient ruins. They will be practising core watercolour techniques such as wet-on-wet painting and controlled colour bleeding, allowing pigments to blend naturally on damp paper to simulate drifting fog and heavy rain clouds. Alongside these weather effects, pupils will be experimenting with layering and texture to recreate the look of aged, mossy stonework. This project connects directly with our wider curriculum, linking to **History** through our study of medieval fortresses and how they have weathered over time, and **Geography** as we examine how castles were strategically built into rugged landscapes and exposed to the elements.

Enrichment Activities:

- Upper Redesdale Show artwork
- Harvest celebrations at church
- Pupil Parliament Elections
- World Mental health Day
- History Workshops
- Fire Safety Assembly
- Antibullying Week
- Christingle at church
- Christmas Play

Design and Technology

Cooking and Nutrition - Christmas Chocolates (Enterprise project - stall at the Christmas fair)

This term in Design and Technology, our Year 5 students will be launching an exciting enterprise project to design, make, and sell their very own Christmas chocolates. Blending food science with product design, the children will investigate the compositional differences between dark and milk chocolate—exploring how varying levels of cocoa solids, cocoa butter, milk powder, and sugar affect taste and texture—while building foundational links to their upcoming Spring Term Science topic on the properties and changes of materials. In the kitchen, they will master practical culinary techniques such as using piping bags to neatly fill festive moulds and add intricate

Music

This year, our Year 5 music lessons are delivered by specialist teacher Justin Radford through our ongoing partnership with the Northumberland Music Service. Building on their existing foundation, the children will deepen their musical knowledge, technical skills, and creativity through engaging practical music-making, active listening, and exciting performance opportunities. Throughout the year, pupils will explore a variety of musical styles, compose their own pieces, and build confidence playing and singing together as an ensemble.

PE

In Year 5, Physical Education (PE) is delivered in partnership with the Newcastle United Foundation, supporting children to develop their physical skills, coordination, teamwork, and understanding of healthy, active lifestyles. Alongside our regular PE lessons, pupils also take part in swimming sessions where they work towards swimming competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres. Throughout these sessions, children learn to use a range of strokes effectively—such as front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke—while also practising essential water safety skills to perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

French

This term in Year 5 French, your child will build a strong foundation in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through two exciting topics. We will begin with *J'apprends le français* (I Am Learning French), where pupils will explore France and the wider French-speaking world while learning how to hold simple conversations. By the end of this unit, your child will be able to greet others, introduce themselves, and say how they are feeling. We will then move on to *Les animaux* (Animals), which marks an important step into early French sentence building. Pupils will learn to recognise, pronounce, and spell up to 10 familiar animals alongside their correct articles (*un* or *une*). They will also be introduced to the high-frequency verb *je suis* ("I am"), enabling them to combine verbs,

Links to the world of work:

- Investigating castles introduces roles in heritage, archaeology and architecture
- science and maths develops skills used in healthcare, engineering and research.
- Our chocolate enterprise project gives children experience of product design, budgeting and marketing.
- Creative work in art, music and computing highlights careers in the creative industries.

Year 5	Autumn Term Overview 2026-2027

decorative details. Alongside their chocolate-making, students will put their Maths and marketing skills to the test by creating a festive brand name and logo, as well as designing a legally compliant back-of-pack food label featuring weight-ordered ingredients lists and bold allergen warnings.				determiners, and nouns to create their very own short phrases in French.	