

January 2026



5H Class Curriculum Letter: Spring Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. Below is an outline of what your child will be studying until Easter, along with some information about routines and expectations. I look forward to working in partnership with you this term to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

English

Writing

This term, we will be focusing on a variety of genres including: Narratives and Argument Texts, Science texts and Shakespeare. We will also look at the audience and purpose of writing, prediction, selecting appropriate form, proofing and editing skills. Children will draw on their reading and research skills to develop their own ideas and improve their writing.

Reading remains a vital aspect of your child's education. It becomes very evident in children's writing when they read regularly. Thus, to best support your child, please ensure they read at home each day. This can be from a variety of texts but should include a novel or a chapter book with an appropriate level of challenge and children should be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the texts that they are reading. Each week, the children are expected to have three entries in their reading records. I am happy for children to fill in their own reading record comments, but ask that you check and sign them regularly (**at least three times each week**) to confirm that they are reading.

In school, children will continue to take part in weekly guided reading sessions, using a range of texts, in order to further develop their retrieval, inference and deduction skills as well as drawing on and identifying the main points in the text.

Spelling continues to be an important part of your child's learning. We will particularly focus on spelling rules and patterns. Weekly spelling homework and testing will help to develop your child's skills in this area.

Maths

This term, the children in year 5 will be covering the following maths topics:

- Perimeter and Area
- Fractions and Decimals
- Percentages
- Angles

R.E.

This term, we will be covering the following topics:

- **Galilee to Jerusalem**

Pupils will study Jesus' 'new law' and his reinterpretation of the Mosaic Law, focusing on the Transfiguration, where Peter, James, and John encounter Jesus alongside Moses and Elijah. The Beatitudes, which encapsulate Jesus' teachings on a higher moral standard, will also be explored. These teachings highlight the importance of loving not just one's neighbour but also one's enemies, as illustrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Additionally, the Our Father will be examined as a model of prayer that fosters a familial relationship with God, inviting reflection on its significance in Christian life.

- **Desert to Garden**

During this unit on Lent, pupils will delve into the significance of the ashes used on Ash Wednesday, focusing on concepts of sin, judgement, heaven, and hell as integral components of God's salvation plan. They will learn that while God's aspiration is for everyone to reach heaven, human choices often lead us away from this divine purpose. The exploration includes Jesus' time in the wilderness, where he faced temptations that mirrored human desires and the importance of resisting such temptations. The unit will emphasise the role of conscience and moral codes, such as the Ten Commandments, in guiding ethical decisions. Students will reflect on the Lenten practices of fasting, giving, and prayer, reinforcing the need to realign with God and foster relationships through love and charity.

Computing:

Creating Media - Stop Motion Animation

Children will:

- Create a toy with simple images and a single movement.
- Create a short stop motion with small changes between images.
- Think of a simple story idea for their animation and then decompose it into smaller parts to create a storyboard with simple characters.
- Make small changes to the models to ensure a smooth animation and delete unnecessary frames.
- Add effects such as extending parts and titles.
- Provide helpful feedback to other groups about their animations.

Programming Music using Scratch

Children will:

- Iterate ideas, testing and changing throughout the lesson. Explain what the basic commands do.
- Explain how their program links to the theme. Include a loop in their work. Correct their own simple mistakes.
- Explain their scene in the story. Link musical concepts to their scene. Include a repeat and explain its function to enhance music.
- Code a piece of music that combines a variety of structures. Use loops in their programming.
- Recognise that programming music is a way to apply their skills

Science:

This term, children will explore the topic of **Properties and Changes of Materials**, including:

- Grouping materials
- Thermal insulators and conductors
- Electrical insulators and conductors
- Dissolving
- Separating materials

Geography-Investigating Rivers

Children will develop an understanding of rivers, their uses, features and the effect they have on the environment. Children will study the water cycle, find out how rivers are formed, explore the journey of a river from source to mouth, investigate why rivers are important, consider the effects of river pollution and conduct a geographical enquiry into a chosen river from around the world.

History- How did the Battle of Hastings affect Britain today?

Through historical enquiry, children will ask questions, explore and evaluate sources and artefacts, and make reasoned judgements about the past in order to consider the significance and impact of the Battle of Hastings today.

Art

Art from Western Africa

Children will explore the spiritual purpose and significance of many African works of art, ceremonial masks and cultural changes reflected in artwork. They will also be using 3D mixed media to design and create relief sculptures.

DT

The children will design a castle with cogs.

P.E:

During this term, the students will have coached sessions where they will gain various skills in a variety of multi-sports activities and dance and gymnastics. PE will take place every **Friday** and children are expected to arrive at school wearing their full St Charles PE kit on this day.

Music:

In "Pop Music 1: Arrangements + Improvisation (Ukulele)", and "Creating Music For Film and TV", Year 5 students explore the world of popular music, focusing on arrangements and improvisation using the ukulele. This unit aligns with the curriculum's objective of nurturing composition and improvisation skills. Pupils begin creating their arrangements and experimenting with improvisation, gaining valuable experience that prepares them for more intricate composition and performance tasks in subsequent years. They will be able to play a melody following staff notation written on one stave and using notes within an octave range (do-do). They will begin to understand how triads are formed and play them on tuned percussion, melodic instruments or keyboards, and will perform simple, chordal accompaniments to familiar songs. Year 5 students embark on a creative journey, composing music for film and television. This unit corresponds to the curriculum's goal of fostering composition skills. Pupils learn to evoke specific emotions, character traits, atmospheres, and environments through music, providing them with a solid foundation for more complex composition projects in Year 6.

Spanish

In Spanish this year, children will build confidence using familiar vocabulary in longer sentences and short texts. They explore traditional Spanish stories, rhymes and songs, and begin creating their own sentences to describe what characters are doing, learning how Spanish verbs change in the present tense. Pupils will also extend their number knowledge up to 100 and use this to measure and compare height. Through reading, listening and speaking activities, they will learn to describe family members, friends and hobbies, express likes and dislikes, and compare people using simple descriptive language.

PSHE

Children will explore the topics of:

- Life cycles
- Keeping safe
- Democracy - being a responsible citizen.

Homework

As a reminder, homework will generally be as follows:

Monday	Spellings (to be handed in on Friday)
Tuesday	Maths (to be handed in by Thursday)
Friday	English + any Topic work (to complete over the weekend)

It will be explained to your child how to access their homework. In addition to set homework, children will be asked to complete any unfinished class work at home.

Stationery

Where possible, please ensure your child has their own pencil case containing: pencils, a rubber, a sharpener, coloured pencils, a ruler and a glue stick. Children should also bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school each day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via the class email address (5H@st-charles.rbkc.sch.uk). Alternatively, please request a call back by contacting the office.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Best Wishes,
Miss Hanley
5H Class Teacher