

Year 5 & 6
Autumn Term 2026

Key Area of learning: Geography

In this unit, children will find out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. By looking at the features of rivers, and the natural and human ways that rivers change over time, children will explore the life stories of rivers. Children will also learn the names and locations of some of the major rivers of the UK and the world.

PE

This half term, Class 4 are able to attend Lords Meadow Leisure Centre where they will be able to develop their swimming, gymnastics and invasion game skills in three sessions each week.

English

In English this half term, we will be beginning with a focus on our transcription skills, to ensure that the fundamentals of writing in English are as solid as they can be. Following this, we will be using *Inside the Villains* by Clotilde Perrin to inspire a re-telling of a traditional tale, from the perspective of the villain. As ever, there will also be guided reading sessions every week and discrete spelling sessions, with further explorations in using grammar and punctuation addressed throughout.

Maths

In Maths this half term, we will begin by recapping and consolidating our knowledge of place value as the very fundament of our number system. In particular, we will focus on the skills of partitioning and rounding as valuable tools for manipulating numbers. We will then go on to work on our four basic operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, becoming increasingly confident with both written and mental methods, and carefully considering when to use each.

Science

In Science this term, we are focused on the world of physics, as we explore some of the fundamental forces that govern our universe. For the most part, we will use our DT STEM Racing project as the basis for this exploration, looking at gravity, friction and air resistance in action, before we separately look into water resistance and the ability of levers, pulleys and gears to allow forces to have a greater effect.

PSHE

This term, we are going to be thinking about keeping ourselves safe and healthy. This includes looking into the dangers of smoking and alcohol, and the problem of peer pressure that can lead someone into doing something they should not or do not want to do. We will also be thinking about how we can look out for one another, specifically thinking what happens if we witness someone being bullied.

RE

In RE this term, we will be asking ourselves the question, “What does it mean when Christians say that God is holy and loving?” We will explore these terms in depth and look to understand how that might affect how people choose to live.

In the second half of the term, we will be expanding our frame of reference to explore humanism in more detail and to consider what matters most to people of belief.

Computing

This term, we will start with a piece of work all about staying safe in the online world, specifically in relation to making friends and sharing images online.

In the second half of the term, we will explore vector drawing, looking at how different tools can help us create images.

DT

In DT this term, we will be taking part in a STEM Racing project (previously F1 for Schools) in partnership with Vandra Carter and Colyton Grammar School. This will see the children working in groups to design, make and race their own cars, powered by pressurised air!

French

This term, we will be beginning with some simple lessons reminding us about some of the differences in pronunciation we will meet in French. After this, we will be looking at “Ma Famille” – learning all about the words we need to describe our families, in order to make a presentation about them.

Values

We have five core values at the heart of everything that we do. These are Dignity, Community, Hope, Wisdom and Love. These values are incorporated into our Collective Worship and each one is focused on in turn during the school year. This term our Collective worship focus is Dignity.

BUILDING ON PRIOR LEARNING	PREPARING FOR FUTURE LEARNING	KEY VOCABULARY	
Geography studies in Lower Key Stage 2 aim to help children use basic geographical skills, including understanding how to use atlases, globes and the eight points of the compass. They should also be able to describe and understand their own local context, and should be able to find a number of locations, including their closest city, on a map of the United Kingdom. We will work to expand this foundational knowledge to look further afield, understanding how to locate ourselves in relation to the rest of the World and reflecting on how our locality compares to other areas, in both physical and human geography.	The intention in Years 5 and 6 is to help children begin to consider not just *how* things are, but explore *why* they are that way as well. We will reiterate the learning of skills from previous years, but we will look to provide greater detail (moving from 4-figure to 6-figure grid references, for example), but we will also try to deepen children's thinking. The intention in Upper Key Stage 2 is to begin to provide children with the tools necessary to independently explore the world around them: knowing how to approach a practical geographical question, how to grapple with some of the grey areas that underpin human geography, and where to go for answers (as well as how to reflect critically on the information they find).	condensation evaporation Exe mountain precipitation river Thames water cycle waterfall	channel dam deposition discharge erosion infiltration meander mouth oxbow lake source tidal bore transpiration tributary

Homework in Class 4 consists of:

- reading (daily wherever possible)
- practising spellings (see the homework sheet for more information)
- practising times-tables (this may have been discussed as a specific target, but all general practice is good!)
- Pick 'n' Mix activities

Your child will have a copy of the Pick 'n' Mix Homework Sheet, containing ideas for the current half term's homework. These Pick 'n' Mix ideas will enable your child to practise skills that they are developing in class and to become really engaged with the type of learning we are doing. They also give you a chance to connect with your child's school learning at home.

Your child is expected to complete **at least one piece** of homework, to bring into school in the final week of the half term and share with everyone else on our Homework Afternoon – but they are welcome to complete more than one piece if they are inspired to do so! However, on-going homework like reading and spellings are very much a priority. If you find you only have limited time for work at home, make sure you do some reading first!

MEMORABLE MOMENT: We will be spending a number of weeks designing, building and improving our STEM Racing cars, before a big Race Day when we will put them to the test.