



# St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Hayley Mayers **Admin Officer:** Mrs Joanne Roper

**Deputy Head:** Ms Zoe Thorn

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! I am delighted to be teaching your children again and look forward to exploring the exciting topics and books we have planned. Mr Kane will be working alongside me in class each day, supporting the children throughout the year.

This term, Year 5 will study two main topics: *It's All Greek to Me* and *Space Race*. We will begin by learning about the lives and legacies of the Ancient Greeks, including their rich mythology. Later in the term, we will move on to the history of the space race and the development of space exploration in the USA. A full overview of the Autumn curriculum is included in the accompanying curriculum map.

There will be a focus on developing our own writing styles and preferences this year, with the children having more autonomy over what and how they write. The children will be given a Personal Writing Journal, which they can use when they feel inspired or when exploring their own interests and styles of writing. They are welcome to take these books home each evening, if they wish to, but need to ensure that they are returned the following day in case they are required in school.

As always, all children are expected to read every day and they will have the opportunity to change their reading books once a week. Please do take the time to talk to your child about the book they are reading and ask them questions – it really does help to strengthen their understanding and confidence. Pupils will continue to be set homework tasks every Friday and these should be completed by the following Wednesday. We will have weekly spellings and the children should be prepared for a spelling test during the following week. The effort the whole class put into their times tables last year was brilliant. Now they have this knowledge, it is important that they maintain their speedy recall and I would encourage them to practise daily.

This term, Year 5 will have PE lessons on Tuesday and Friday, so please ensure that your child has their PE kit on those days. We are also very fortunate to be given the opportunity to learn Brass on a Friday morning. In preparation for this, the children will need to bring their instrument in every Thursday and it is important that they take it home again on Friday after school, so they can practise.

I hope that the return to school will be a positive experience for the children. Mr Kane and myself are eager to make the children's time in Year 5 fun, memorable and successful. I'm sure they will settle back in to the class routine very quickly and I look forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or directly at [Dmayers.209@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:Dmayers.209@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mr Daniel Mayers

Class Teacher

## **English**

As Year 5 explore the fascinating lives and legacies of the Ancient Greeks, they will read *The Adventures of Odysseus*, as well as a short myth, *Orpheus & Eurydice*. They will learn about Greek mythology and write their own short myths. Later in the term, they will read *Hidden Figures and Curiosity of Mars Rover*, which are both non-fiction texts. To support their space topic, Year 5 will read *Cosmic* during the Guided Reading sessions.

## **Maths**

We will continue to explore maths using a mastery approach. Children will learn methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will develop an understanding of place value in numbers up to one million and begin to compare numbers with three decimal places. Later in the term, they will work through a unit on statistics. They will learn to read and interpret different types of graphs, practise drawing their own line graphs and solve problems using a range of charts and graphs.

## **History**

### **Ancient Greece**

The children will be learning about the daily lives and legacy of the Ancient Greeks. They will look at a wide range of myths and legends to learn about the many Gods that the Greeks believed in.

### **Space Race**

Later in the term, children will be learning about the history of flight and space travel.



## **Year 5**

**Autumn 1:** It's All Greek to Me!

**Autumn 2:** Space Race

**Teacher:** Mr Daniel Mayers

## **Art**

Whilst reading *The Adventures of Odysseus*, children will learn about the art of typography and map making. We will use these skills to retell the important events of the story. Later in the term, the children will produce space paintings taking inspiration from the Artist Peter Thorpe.

## **DT**

In connection with the history topic, pupils will make Etruscan vases. They will design their vases and then use clay to complete the making process. They will learn techniques for modelling clay and joining pieces together.

## **Science** **Forces**

Children will learn about gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. They will develop an understanding of balanced and unbalanced forces and their effects. They will also investigate mechanisms, levers, pulleys and gears.

## **Space**

Later in the term, children will learn about Earth and Space. They will learn about planets, stars, the solar system, eclipses, seasons and day & night.

## **Computing**

Year 5 will begin the term by continuing to build on their coding skills. They will have the opportunity to use computers in class to publish their writing and use Google Classroom to navigate Google Slides. In the second half of the term we will be exploring online safety and using spreadsheets.

## **PE**

Year 5 will have PE lessons on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. They will develop their fitness and coordination skills by participating in a Hockey and Fitness. This will include use of our apparatus in the hall.

## **RE**

### **Ourselves**

The first RE topic this term is 'Ourselves'. Children will learn about the domestic church and develop a deeper awareness of who they are. We will explore special people in our families and being created in the likeness of God. Later in the term, they will explore a range of 'life choices' and learn about the importance of sacraments as a personal journey. As always, we encourage children to attend mass regularly to deepen their understanding of liturgy and worship.