



21st January 2026

YEAR 5 SPRING TERM CLASS LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

All the staff in Year 5 are looking forward to getting back to our learning with the children this term. Below is an outline of what we will be studying this term, together with some additional general information. Over the course of the term, the children will have many opportunities to practise existing skills, acquire new ones and add to their knowledge base across the curriculum.

Spring Curriculum

In **Literacy**, we are currently focusing on the short text 'Little Vixen Street' which will help us to develop our suspense writing and following this, we will be focusing on non-chronological report writing, based on our History topic, Anglo-Saxons. After half term, we will watch and analyse the video 'The Alchemist's Letter', providing insight into film narrative. We will end the term with the poem 'Jabberwocky', where we will have great fun creating new portmanteau words, inventing our own creatures and performing.

Our **Reading** lessons will use the text 'Beowulf,' which links well to our History topic too, before moving onto 'Cogheart'. Both these will further develop vocabulary and inference skills.

We will recap and consolidate our Autumn term learning on place value and multiplication & division strategies in **Maths**, but our focus will be building on our knowledge of fractions; adding, subtracting, comparing and linking to decimals and percentages. After half term, we will be studying measurements and shape. We will continue with weekly fluency sessions, which will incorporate Arithmetic practice and Reasoning based questions.

In the first half of the term, our **Science** lessons will involve a study of materials, where we will compare and group materials according to their properties and uses. We will also investigate changes of state, including both reversible and non-reversible changes.

Computing will focus on spreadsheets and coding using programs and tasks on Purple Mash. We will continue to emphasise the importance of online safety across all curriculum areas.

Our **History** this term is an element of British History- the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We will study the differences between their way of life and ours, learn about their beliefs and customs, look at a range of sources including archaeological finds, and of course Sutton Hoo! Our key question focus is whether they were invaders or settlers.

After half term, our **Geography** theme will be 'Fair Trade'. This is an excellent, relevant unit which focuses on a comparison between Britain and other places, particularly those where we get our food. We conduct a case study into banana farming on St Lucia and decide how fair life is for the people and companies involved in this trade.

RE will cover aspects of festivals and key figures in both Christianity and Judaism, with a particular focus on stories from the Torah and Bible.

Music will take place on Thursdays with Miss Hayden. The children will be exploring their Anglo-Saxon history theme through a series of songs in their music lessons. They will have the opportunity to focus on exploring major and minor keys and musical structure. There will also be some composition opportunities using ukuleles which they began to learn last term.

In **French** on a Thursday, the children will be learning how to tell each other about pets they have as well as developing their language skills around weather. Later in the term, the children will learn vocabulary for activities they may possibly do at the weekend and build their French writing skills

In **DT**, children will be learning about different frame structures, culminating in designing and building their own 3D frame structure.

Art will have a focus on printmaking. The children will explore the work of different artists such as Michael Rothenstein and will learn the process of reduction printing using Press Print and primary colours

PE will consist of Dance this half term and Invasion Games (Hockey) after half term. We will be continuing our swimming lessons on Friday afternoons, which will teach the children valuable water safety skills and develop their range of swimming strokes. Please ensure children come to school in PE kits on the allocated day for their class (Thursdays this half term for both classes).

Reading: *"Research shows children who read for pleasure achieve better school performance than those that don't."* Michael Rosen – writer and former Children's Laureate. Please encourage your child to make time daily for this vital activity. You can talk to them about their reading; ask questions that encourage them to retrieve information from a text, investigate unknown vocabulary or infer an author's meaning. There is a wide range of books for children to choose and take home to read in our class library, which they should make full use of!

Times tables: Knowledge of multiplication facts and the ability to quickly recall them form a fundamental key to children's progress in mathematics. Regular practice will increase fluency and enable links to be made with other 'tables' – for example if we know 3×4 can we calculate 300×40 or 0.3×4 ? Please encourage your children to use their 'Times Table Rockstars' or other sites such as 'Hit the Button' <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> which is also available as an App.

Homework will continue to be set on google classroom, every Friday. This will include a 'topic' activity, spellings and maths activities every week, to enhance their learning from class.

We recommend that you regularly check the school calendar on the school website for any other events that may occur throughout the term. We will also use the Google Classroom to send updates.

We also regularly update our class pages on the website with information about our learning.

[Click here for the Year 5 class page](#)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the class email addresses geckos@stpeters.herts.sch.uk and swallows@stpeters.herts.sch.uk. We will endeavour to reply to you as soon as possible, but please be aware that we will not be able to respond to emails during teaching hours. For any urgent communication, please contact the school office. Please also contact the office about absences and/or different people collecting your child. You can use the email: mychildtoday@stpeters.herts.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Miss Honour and Miss Murphy