Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026-27

Our Year ahead

Welcome to Morpurgo class. This year, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Hooson and I will be supporting our Year 5 and Year 6 children through an abundance of rich, knowledge filled learning across our whole curriculum. We will develop our geographical understanding by exploring the world's climate zones and examining how people, places and environments are connected. Children will investigate why people migrate, how movement shapes communities, and how individuals and organisations can help create a more sustainable future. As historians, we will journey through the story of Ancient Rome, learning about the growth of the Roman Empire, the Roman invasion of Britain, and the lasting impact of Roman achievements. We will also explore significant discoveries, inventions and civilisations that have helped shape the world we live in today. Throughout this year, our class novels, guided reading and English Units will complement our learning in Science and foundation subjects to ensure the children have many opportunities to deepen their knowledge. We will be continuing our journey towards mastery Maths, where the children will have many opportunities to strengthen and deepen their understanding of mathematical knowledge. They will be building on their prior knowledge throughout the year and will also be introduced to some new learning too.

We will be making educational visits throughout the year to enhance the children's learning experience. This year, one of our visits will be a unique visit to the Houses of Parliament in London. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to tour the building where history is being made. The children will gain an understanding of the systems in place within the government and learn how they have a voice through learning about their local MP's. From voting, campaigning, debating and learning about laws in the UK, it really is a fun-filled opportunity! They will also enjoy a spiritual retreat to Castlerigg Manor in the Lake District, where they will have the chance to strengthen their relationship with God and deepen their faith, whilst building lasting friendships, developing independence and creating memories that will stay with them long after their visit.

There are three homework expectations at St Joseph's: reading, spellings and times tables. Each area should be practiced for ten minutes, three times per week. These are the key areas where regular, short practice at home can support the learning taking place in school. We want children to develop secure knowledge, fluency and positive learning habits through regular, purposeful practice.

Any exciting achievements outside of school can also be sent in via Class Dojo or brought in to be shared in class. We love sharing and celebrating our successes with one another in school.

We have a fantastic year ahead planned and hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are!

Warm regards,
Mr Gregory.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Here is an overview of the learning planned for this year in 5 and 6.

Religious Education

Magister Resources

Every person is created in the image and likeness of God and has unique dignity and worth. Through the study of Scripture, Tradition and lived faith, children deepen their relationship with God, grow in virtue and discover their call to use their gifts in service of others and the wider world.

Creation and Covenant –
Explore how God reveals Himself through Creation and the Covenants. Study Abraham, Moses and the People of God, considering what it means to be chosen and called. Reflect on their relationship with God and how they are called to live as people of faith.

Prophecy and Promise –
Study the role of the prophets and God's promises throughout salvation history. Explore how Old Testament prophecies point towards Jesus and examine how the events of Advent and Christmas fulfil God's plan for humanity.

Galilee to Jerusalem –
Follow Jesus' public ministry, exploring His teachings, miracles and encounters with others. Investigate how Jesus revealed the Kingdom of God and what His message means for Christians today.

Desert to garden –
Journey through the events of Lent and Holy Week, reflecting on Jesus' suffering, death and sacrifice. Explore the significance of the Passion and how the Resurrection brings hope and new life.

To the ends of the Earth –
Examine the growth of the early Church through the work of the Apostles and the power of the Holy Spirit. Learn how the message of Jesus spread throughout the world and how Christians continue this mission today.

Dialogue and encounter –
Explore how people of different faiths seek God and live out their beliefs. Through the study of Judaism and interfaith dialogue, develop respect, understanding and appreciation of the diverse world in which we live.

Weekly Liturgy and Prayer

We pray together each day in our class worship - spending time being still and developing our personal relationship with Christ.

On Monday's, we come together as a whole school to celebrate our Faith, consider ways we can contribute to school life during the week ahead and aspire to be like Christ in our work and play.

On Tuesday's, Mr Gregory will lead a celebration of the word in Morpurgo Class.

Wednesday Word is a chance for us to share the Gospel prior to Sunday, discuss it with each other and develop a deeper understanding. A child carries the light candle, a symbol of Jesus as light of the world, another child carries the cross, and another child carries and reads the gospel.

On Thursday's, children from Morpurgo Class will pair up and take it in turns to lead the rest of the class in worship.

On Friday's, we come together once again for our celebration Worship where we reflect on the week and acknowledge our achievements.

Each half-term, we will end with a special whole-school celebration focusing on the Jesuit Virtues from the current half-term. Each class will show how they have lived out these virtues through their learning, actions and contributions to the school community, celebrating the positive difference they have made both in school and beyond.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

HRSE

Life To the Full
Created and Loved by God

Created and Loved by God explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are made in the image and likeness of God, it helps children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.

Life To the Full
Created to Love Others

Created to Love Others explores the individual's relationship with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this module explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships and keeping safe both online and in our daily lives.

Life To the Full
Created to Live in Community

Created to Live in Community explores the individual's relationship with the wider world. Here we explore how human beings are relational by nature and are called to love others in the wider community through service, through dialogue and through working for the Common Good. In Life to the Full Plus, learning on money and careers is concluded, using previous learning from the module to understand God's call to live generously.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

English

Reading

Guided Reading

Throughout our Guided Reading lessons children will be exposed to a wide range of extracts, stories and texts that we analyse together in whole class reading and discussion, before participating in follow up activities.

Class Novel Autumn

Icarus Was Ridiculous
Pamela Butchart

To link to the children's learning of Ancient Greece, our class reader is about a girl who loves Ancient Greek myths and enjoys dramatically retelling them.

Class Novel Spring

The Curse of the Maya
Andy Loneragan & Johnny Pearce.

The story of two twins who travel to Guatemala with their father who is helping to excavate a newly found Maya city.

Class Novel Summer

Can You See Me?
Rebecca Westcott

A powerful story of autism, empathy and kindness. As Tally, an eleven-year-old girl starts her journey to high school.

Reading for Pleasure

We encourage all children to spend time reading anything they find enjoyable. We have incorporated reading for pleasure time throughout our school day, which our children love.

Writing

Diary entry, letter and an action narrative – Based on the book King Kong by Anthony Browne, children will tap into their imagination to create a diary entry and letter from Denham, as well as writing an action-packed story ending.

Character descriptions and an adventure narrative – Based on Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo, children will write a further adventure for Beowulf, inventing their own monster, incorporating their motives and viewpoint.

Journal entry and letter – Based on Shackleton's Journey by William Grill, children will write a letter to become and member of Shackleton's crew on a journey to Antarctica and an entry for Shackleton's journal giving a narrative account of a significant event.

Newspaper report and explanative report – Based on Island by Jason Chin, children will write a short newspaper report about Charles Darwin's journey aboard HMS Beagle and an explanative report (hybrid) about his discoveries.

Persuasive writing and a biography – Based on Manfish by Jennifer Berne, children will write a persuasive piece for a website and write a multi-modal biography of Jacques Cousteau in the style of the 'Great Adventurers' text.

Invitation and poetry writing – Based on Poetry for Kids William Shakespeare by Marguerite Tassi, children will write an invitation from William Shakespeare to the Queen's secretary and write a sonnet poem to a friend, family member or teacher.

Grammar and Punctuation*

Through English:
Adverbials
Fronted adverbs
Range of punctuation
Prepositions
Expanded noun phrases
Inverted commas
Tenses
Passive verbs

Through English:
Apostrophes
Range of sentences
Inverted commas
Expanded noun phrases
Parenthesis using brackets, dashes or commas
Different verb forms

Through English:
Inverted commas
Expanded noun phrases
Conjunctions
Parenthesis using brackets, dashes or commas
Relative clauses
Passive verbs
Semi-colons
Commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity

Through English:
Expanded noun phrases
Paragraphs
Relative clauses
Semi-colons
Modal verbs
Parenthesis using brackets, dashes or commas
Tenses
Passive verbs
Passive voice

Through English:
Range of sentences
Conjunctions
Paragraphs
Fronted adverbials
Pronouns
Relative clauses
Hypens
Synonyms

Through English:
Variety of verb forms
Paragraphs
Fronted adverbials
Expanded noun phrases
Use semi-colons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses

Handwriting and presentation

All children are encouraged to present learning in neat, legible, cursive handwriting. Throughout the week we find opportunities for children to practice this to ensure it is consistent through all books.

Spelling

Children build on their phonics knowledge and previous spelling learning to explore spelling rules, patterns and word origins. Through regular practice, investigation and retrieval activities, pupils develop accuracy, confidence and independence in applying spelling strategies across their writing.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Maths

Year 5 Maths Overview

Term	Unit	Strand
Autumn Textbook A	Unit 1	Place value: within 100,000
	Unit 2	Place value: within 100,000
	Unit 3	Addition & subtraction
	Unit 4	Graphs and tables
	Unit 5	Multiplication & division (1)
	Unit 6	Measure: area and perimeter
Spring Textbook B	Unit 7	Multiplication & division (2)
	Unit 8	Fractions (1)
	Unit 9	Fractions (2)
	Unit 10	Fractions (3)
	Unit 11	Decimals and percentages
Summer Textbook C	Unit 12	Decimals
	Unit 13	Geometry: properties of shapes (1)
	Unit 14	Geometry: properties of shapes (2)
	Unit 15	Geometry: position and direction
	Unit 16	Measure: converting units
	Unit 17	Measure: volume and capacity

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Maths

Year 6 Maths Overview

Term	Unit	Strand
Autumn **Textbook** **A**	**Unit 1**	Place value within 10, 000, 000
	Unit 2	Four operations (1)
	Unit 3	Four operations (2)
	Unit 4	Fractions (1)
	Unit 5	Fractions (2)
	Unit 6	Geometry: position and direction
Spring **Textbook** **B**	**Unit 7**	Decimals
	Unit 8	Percentages
	Unit 9	Algebra
	Unit 10	Measure: imperial and metric measures
	Unit 11	Measure: perimeter, area and volume
	Unit 12	Ratio & proportion
Summer **Textbook** **C**	**Unit 13**	Geometry: properties of shapes
	Unit 14	Problem solving
	Unit 15	Statistics

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Science

Light

Children will investigate how light travels in straight lines and how we see objects. They will explore reflection, refraction and shadows, using scientific enquiry to explain everyday phenomena and solve practical problems.

Further Classification

Children will build on previous learning about living things by classifying organisms using observable characteristics. They will create and use classification keys, identify microorganisms and explore how scientists organise living things.

Evolution

Children will learn how living things have changed over time and how fossils provide evidence for evolution. They will explore adaptation, inheritance and the work of Charles Darwin, considering how species are suited to their environments.

Electricity

Children will develop their understanding of electrical circuits by investigating components, symbols and voltage. They will build, test and adapt circuits while exploring how electricity is used safely in everyday life.

Forces

Children will investigate the effects of different forces including gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance. They will explore how mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears make work easier and support movement.

Earth and Space

Children will explore the relationships between the Earth, Moon and Sun. They will investigate day and night, phases of the Moon and the movement of planets within our solar system, using models and observations to explain patterns in space.

Working Scientifically

Throughout the year, children will develop their scientific enquiry skills by asking questions, planning investigations, recording results, analysing data and drawing conclusions. They will use scientific evidence to explain their ideas and communicate findings using appropriate scientific language.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Computing and Music

We teach computing through the key areas of Computing Systems and Networks, Programming, Creating Media, Data Handling. At the start of every unit, we have online safety lessons.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Online Safety Online protection and online bullying (Anti-Bullying week 16th – 20th November) **Micro:bits** Develop understanding of programming by using micro:bits to create and test programs, applying inputs, outputs, variables and selection to solve problems and design digital solutions.	**Online Safety** Online communication and online reputation **Computer Systems: Websites, Search and Storage** Develop an understanding of how websites are created, hosted and accessed online. Explore how search engines find information, evaluate the reliability of online sources and learn how data is stored and shared across computer networks.	**Online Safety** Online gaming and online health **Data Handling: Exploring Spreadsheets** Develop skills in using spreadsheets to organise, analyse and present data. Learn to enter formulas, create charts and use spreadsheet tools to solve problems, identify patterns and make informed decisions from data.

Shaping Music

Explore how music can be shaped through rhythm, pitch and musical patterns, using My Best Friend as inspiration. Develop improvisation skills and learn to compose and perform pieces of music, experimenting with different sections and musical ideas.

Sounds Dramatic

Explore how music can create atmosphere, mood and suspense through a range of musical elements. Develop listening, performing and composing skills while experimenting with dynamics, tempo and texture to create dramatic musical pieces.

Carnival Time

Discover the exciting rhythms and vibrant sounds of carnival music. Develop performance and improvisation skills using percussion, rhythm patterns and ensemble playing, before creating and performing your own carnival-inspired compositions.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Design Technology

Savoury Snacks
Children will investigate and evaluate a range of savoury snacks, considering nutrition, consumer needs and food preparation techniques. They will design and make their own healthy savoury snack, applying skills in measuring, preparing and combining ingredients safely.

Head Coverings
Children will explore the purpose, design and cultural significance of different head coverings. They will investigate textiles and construction techniques before designing and creating their own functional head covering to meet a specific design brief.

Sustainable Systems
Children will learn about sustainability and how products and systems can be designed to reduce environmental impact. They will research, design and create innovative solutions that consider the responsible use of materials, energy and resources while meeting the needs of a user.

Art

Artist Illusions
The children will find out all the tricks of the trade to discover how artists play with perspective, line and colour to create clever and mind-bending illusions, including trompe l'oeil and optical art.

Famous Fashions
This half term we will look at a variety of British/non British designers. Children will be encouraged to think about what designers do to make their products distinctive from others and how this creates a famous brand. The final piece will be to create a costume linked to our work on the Shang dynasty that an actor could wear as part of a performance based in this period of history.

Leonardo Di Vinci
This historical and artistic scheme of work will teach the children about the significant artist, about the Renaissance and Leonardo da Vinci's outstanding accomplishments. They will be given opportunities to recreate famous portraits and religious paintings in a fun and interactive way. Children will have the opportunity to draw, invent machines and pretend to be art curators for a major gallery.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

Physical Education

Autumn

Throughout the Autumn term we will focus on the skills and knowledge involved in dance and invasion games such as spatial awareness, sending and receiving a ball, maintaining possession amongst learning about different roles of players in games such as: netball and football.

Spring

During the Spring term, we will focus our learning on creative games, net and wall activities (badminton and tennis) and gymnastics. Children will explore different movements and ways to improve coordination, expression and timing through dance. They will also have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of court positioning, backhand and forehand shots and compare the skills required in both games.

Summer

In Summer, the children will develop their striking and fielding skills through cricket and rounders, as well as develop knowledge of athletics, and teamwork and problem-solving skills. They will consider the importance of knowing the significant skills to play well on both a striking or a fielding team. Children will learn ways in which to improve their athletic skills in time for our annual sports day event.

The Golden Mile

The Golden Mile is a safe, simple and measurable way to improve health and physical activity. Every pupil can get involved by walking, jogging or running around our Golden Mile track.

Forest Schools

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for developing confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired hands-on experiences in a natural setting. Our secret garden outdoor area is the perfect setting for our children to explore.

Enrichment

Children are offered opportunities to develop their skills through our after-school clubs. We also take part in a variety or sporting leagues and competitions which gives children the chance to use their skills when playing against other children.

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview 2026/27

History

Ancient Rome

Children will explore the rise and expansion of the Roman Empire, discovering how Rome grew from a small city to a powerful civilisation. They will investigate Roman society, government, engineering and daily life, considering the lasting impact of Roman ideas and achievements on the modern world.

Romans in Britain

Children will examine the Roman invasion and occupation of Britain, exploring why the Romans came and how life changed under Roman rule. They will investigate settlements, roads, technology and resistance, evaluating the impact of the Romans on Britain's development.

Quest for Knowledge

Children will explore how different civilisations and individuals have contributed to human knowledge and understanding. They will investigate significant discoveries, inventions and advances in learning, considering how these achievements have shaped the world we live in today.

Geography

Climate Across the World

Children will investigate the world's climate zones and explore how climate differs across regions. They will examine the factors that influence weather and climate, consider the challenges posed by climate change and analyse how people adapt to different environments.

On the Move

Children will explore why people migrate and how movement shapes communities around the world. They will investigate patterns of migration, trade and transport, examining the social, economic and environmental impacts of people moving between places.

Improving the Environment

Children will investigate environmental issues affecting local and global communities. They will explore how individuals, organisations and governments work to protect the environment and will consider practical ways to create a more sustainable future.