

## RE and PSHE

In RE this half term, we will be focusing on the key question:

'How did the first five Gurus shape Sikhism?'

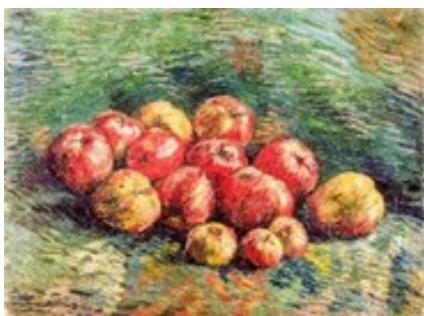


Through this question, we will be developing our understanding of the beliefs and religious practices of Sikhism, as well as the significance of the First Five Gurus.

In PSHE, our topic is "Dreams and Goals." This topic focuses on what we would like to achieve and what steps we need to take to get there.

## Art

This half term in art we will be focusing on the key skill of drawing. We will be looking at the work of Van Gogh, the artistic movement of Post-Impressionism and creating some still life drawings in the style of his art work.



## Homework

Homework will be uploaded every Friday on Google Classroom, including the spelling words children will be assessed on the following week.

Children are expected to engage with TTRS on a regular basis to help with their times tables fluency.



# St John and St James C of E Primary School Class Newsletter

## Welcome Back to School!

Happy New Year to all of the parents and carers of children in Year 5!

We hope you had an amazing Christmas and we are looking forward to continuing some exciting learning in 2026!

Adults working in Year 5

Mr McCullough  
Miss Karakas

## Key Dates

19.01.26  
Trip to The British Museum  
06.02.26  
NSPCC Number Day  
06.02.26  
Debate Day

## Home Reading

Please remember to bring your AR or Reading Roadmap book into school everyday and to fill in your reading record each night to be checked in the morning.

The Year 5 library slot is on **Monday afternoon**. This is an opportunity for children to swap their completed books and take AR tests. This can also be done every lunchtime 12:30-13:00

## Debate Day

On debate day, we will be debating the following statement: **The Ancient Greeks were history's greatest inventors.** This debate will link to our humanities lessons, using our prior history learning to compare The Greeks to other civilisations from the past.

## Science

Our science unit this half term is:

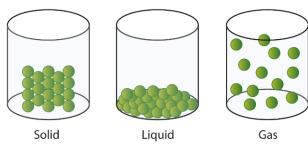
### 'Properties and Changes'

In this science unit, we will be revisiting key knowledge and building on our scientific skills from Year Four. We will be asking and answering questions practically about the following areas:

- Classifying items as solids, liquids and gases.
- Materials have various properties.
- Materials may be soluble or insoluble.
- The processes of separating mixtures.
- Reversible and irreversible changes.

We will be working scientifically by:

- Separating mixtures using filtering, sieving and evaporation.
- Recording data accurately using the correct units.
- Presenting scientific results in a range of ways.



## Humanities

This half term, our history topic is:

### The Ancient Greeks.

Our key question is: What Impact did The Ancient Greeks have on Modern Society?

This topic is all about the influence the Greeks had on the modern world and comparing Ancient Greek civilisation with Greece and the world today. We will be looking at Greek artefacts, the notion of city states, the creation of democracy, Greek mythology, the famous battles and Greek pottery.

We will be working as historians to answer mini enquiries as part of our history lessons and using both primary and secondary sources of evidence to support our hypotheses about the past.

## PE

PE is on **Tuesday afternoon**. This term's focus is volleyball.

Children may come to school in full PE kit on this day.

## English

Our class reader this half term is:  
**'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief'**  
by Rick Riordan

This half term, Year 5 will be completing three pieces of writing, using Rick Riordan's brilliant text as inspiration for their own creations.

The genres of writing we will be covering are:

- To write an engaging introduction to a story.
- To write a character description.

Our **SPAG focuses** will be:

- Correctly punctuated direct speech.
- Using semi-colons and colons.
- Building tension
- Using -ing clauses.

Rick Riordan uses authorial voice to speak directly to his reader. This makes the text both engaging and humorous and the class will be experimenting with creating their own, distinct authorial voice this half term.

## Maths

The fundamentals that we will be focusing on this half term are:

### Fractions, Decimals & Percentages -

- To multiply fractions by integers.
- To find fractions of quantities.
- To read, write & compare decimal numbers, fractions & percentages.
- To know the percentage & decimal equivalent of:  $1/2$ ,  $1/4$ ,  $1/5$ ,  $2/5$ ,  $4/5$

### Times Tables Rock Stars

Children in Year 5 are expected to be practising their times tables for at least 10 minutes every evening. Please support them in doing so by using Times Tables Rock Stars, which is the most effective way to increase their fluency. Log in details can be found in the front cover of your child's homework book.

## Computing

This half term, our computing topic is  
**Multimedia: Video Production**

Children will be learning what makes a good video, including camera techniques, using a microphone and video recording. We will be making our own video, including a script.