

Curriculum Newsletter

Waltham Holy Cross – Autumn Term 2026

We are Year 5: 5D, 5R, 5O



Welcome to Year 5

Welcome to Year 5! We look forward to a productive year together, during which the children will engage in exciting activities and events. The pupils will continue to develop their reading with daily reading lessons. In English, they will explore a variety of genres, and learn about the features of character descriptions, dilemmas and persuasive letters, with a constant focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar. They will also continue to master times tables, and develop their reasoning skills using new methods in maths lessons.

P.E.

All children in Year 5 will have a PE lesson on a Tuesday with our specialist sports coaches. They will also have one other PE lesson during the week with their class teacher (5D on Fridays, 5R on Thursdays, and 5O on Thursdays). The sports they will cover this term are, football, tag rugby, dance (Haka) and volleyball.

Home reading

Please do continue to read regularly with your children and remind your child to bring in their reading books and reading records daily, so we can see all of their hard work and any information you wish to communicate with us. We will be changing books every week during your child's library slot, however they are welcome to bring their own book from home too.

Topics we will be studying this term...

Geography – Europe

Science – Forces; Earth and Space

Art – Architecture DT - Textiles

RWV – Philosophy: Why Should We Be Good?

RSE – My Happy Mind

History – The Tudors

Maths

In maths, we will study numbers and the number system up to millions, including Roman Numerals. We will also be looking at the four operations, as



English

We will start the autumn term by reading 'Night of the Gargoyles' by Eve Bunting. This fantasy book allows children to explore their imagination. As well as this, it will help them to develop their use of description in their writing. We will then be focusing on the novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom', using it as a stimulus to write persuasive letters and dilemmas.

History

Our history topic this term focuses on the Tudors. The children will investigate the Tudor monarchy and how these events changed the shape of Britain today, sweeping away the old religious order.

Science

As scientists we will be studying forces. The children will explore friction, air and water resistance and gravity, as well as mechanisms. We will do so by planning and conducting a range of experiments. After half-term, we will use this knowledge to study Earth and Space in more detail.

Geography

In geography, we are studying Europe, beginning with the names of the countries in Europe and where they are located using maps. Then we will identify landmarks and consider whether they are physical or human features.

Art / DT

In art, our topic will be architecture. The artist that we will investigate to inspire our work is Friedensreich Hundertwasser. In DT, we will be creating stuffed toys.

Also...

In Year 5, homework will be set online. There will be no homework books.

Mathletics – 2 x tasks weekly.

TTRS – at least 3x per week.

Spelling Shed – weekly (set on Fridays).

Logins will be given out by the class teacher.

Children should practise their spellings online, ready for a spelling test on a Friday.

