Northenden Community School

Curriculum Information for Parents



Class Year 5 (Miss McGovern)

Term Autumn 2 2026 (7 weeks)

Theme Why do oceans matter? (Geography)

THE BIG IDEA	In this unit, children explore the importance of the world's oceans and the vital role they play in supporting life on Earth. They investigate how humans use oceans for food, transport, recreation and employment, while developing an understanding of how oceans help regulate the Earth's climate. Children study the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, identifying its location, biodiversity and importance to marine ecosystems. They examine threats such as pollution, overfishing and climate change before considering how individuals and communities can protect marine environments.

BASIC SKILLS in ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS and COMPUTING/ICT

In READING lessons, the children will …

- Develop comprehension through prediction, vocabulary, retrieval, inference, summarising and comparison.
- Read and discuss a historical fiction text, using evidence from the text to explain ideas and justify responses.
- Retrieve and record key information, infer characters' thoughts and motives.

In WRITING lessons, the children will …

- Non-fiction writing: Children will create fact files, informative paragraphs and descriptive texts about coral reefs and marine life.
- Persuasive writing: Children will write pledges and persuasive texts encouraging others to protect oceans and coral reefs.
- SPaG development: Focus on relative clauses, modal verbs, parenthesis, expanded noun phrases and complex sentences.

In MATHEMATICS lessons, the children will…

- Multiplication: Children are revisiting multiplication facts, identifying factors and multiples, and applying formal written methods to solve increasingly challenging calculations.
- Division: Children are consolidating division facts, practising short division and using the inverse relationship between multiplication and division to check their answers.
- Fractions: Children are revisiting equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering fractions, and applying their understanding to addition and subtraction of fractions.

In COMPUTING lessons, the children will

- Programming
- Music
- Online safety

In **SCIENCE** we will …

Children will explore and compare the life cycles of plants and animals, developing an understanding of their stages of growth and how living things reproduce to produce offspring.

- Plant life cycles: Children will explore the stages of a flowering plant's life cycle, including germination, growth, pollination, fertilisation and seed dispersal.
- Animal life cycles: Children will investigate and compare the life cycles of mammals, birds, amphibians and insects, identifying similarities and differences in their development.
- Reproduction: Children will develop their understanding of sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and animals, using scientific vocabulary to explain how living things reproduce

In **Geography** we will …

- Importance of oceans: Children will explore why oceans are essential to life on Earth and how humans use them.
- Water cycle: Children will revisit evaporation, condensation and precipitation, understanding the oceans' role in the water cycle.
- Human impact: Children will begin to understand the importance of protecting oceans and their resources.

In **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY** we will …

- Understand seasonality, and know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed.
- Understand the principle of a healthy and varied diet.
- To evaluate nutritional content.
- To practice food preparation skills.

In **MUSIC** we will …

- Traditional instruments and improvisation.
- Play a trumpet/trombone.
- Perform, listen, review and evaluate music.
- Compose their own music.

In **PSHCE** we will …

- Fire work safety.
- Dealing with dares.
- Learn about habits.
- Learn about influences.

In **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** we will …

- Which people are special and why?
- Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- What is so radical about Jesus?

PE lessons will take place on WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS
In our PE lessons, the children will …

- Use balance and shape in gymnastics.
- will develop and apply their dynamic balance on a line and counter balance with a partner through focused skill development sessions, modified/non-traditional games and sports and healthy competition

OTHER INFORMATION

- The children have a weekly spelling test on Fridays.
- Homework and spellings will be set each Friday. Homework needs to be handed in on Thursdays.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME BY …

- Reviewing their report from last year and encouraging them with their targets
- Reading with them and sharing in their learning on a regularly (daily) basis;
- Ensuring that homework is completed on time and to the best of their ability.
- Daily spelling practice.