

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 5 AUTUMN TERM 2026

WELCOME BACK!

It has been a busy and successful start to the year in Year 5. The children have shown great enthusiasm for learning, worked hard to develop new skills and impressed us with their positive attitudes and growing independence.

ENGLISH

Fiction: We began the year revisiting key writing skills through the beautiful wordless picture book *Journey*, which encouraged children to use their imagination and recap a range of literary techniques. Our second unit used a short film clip *The Lighthouse* to inspire narrative writing, focusing on creating tension and suspense. We also enjoyed studying *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, using Roald Dahl's famous characters and setting as inspiration for entertaining narratives about a new child who joins the adventure through the factory and meets an unfortunate, chocolate-filled fate. In Autumn 2, we'll write narratives based on *Aviatrice*, a film clip about Jacqueline Auriol, the first European female aviator to break the sound barrier. We'll end the term with poetry and narrative writing inspired by *The Dreadful Menace* and the BBC's 2014 Winter Olympics trailer.

Non-fiction: Our History and Geography topics—The Benin Kingdom and Slums—will provide the basis for a range of non-fiction writing.

Reading: We're currently exploring *Journey to Jo'burg*, which links to our geography topic on slums. After half term, we'll dive into the mysterious world of *The Nowhere Emporium*.

MATHEMATICS: Year 5 will continue to follow the Maths No Problem curriculum. Pupils will develop fluency in number facts and times tables, alongside calculation strategies, reasoning and problem solving. While we'll keep refining written methods, the focus will be on choosing and applying the most effective strategies to solve problems. Real-life maths will be central to our approach, and it's helpful if children practise at home—e.g. telling the time, calculating change or measuring for baking. Reasoning, justifying and explaining answers will also be key. Please ensure your child regularly practises multiplication tables up to 12×12 using TT Rock Stars and spends time on Doodle Maths (little and often) to stay in the green zone—these are part of our homework expectations.

COMPUTING : Our first unit focuses on the children developing their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They will explore a variety of real systems, discover how information is found on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work and what influences searching.

SCIENCE: We start this term exploring Earth and Space. Children will discover fascinating facts about the Sun, Moon and Earth and develop an understanding of day and night and the four seasons. The Sun and the planets making up our Solar System will be investigated, along with the other stars in their constellation. Our second unit will look at a range of different forces: gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. The children will investigate how mechanisms, like levers, pulleys and gears, help us to use smaller forces.

SPANISH and FRENCH: We are very fortunate that Modern Foreign Languages will continue to be taught by a specialist teacher from Twynham School. The children will further develop their vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation in the language they studied in Year 4.

MUSIC: We are delighted to be providing the First Access programme in Year 5 which will allow the children to learn a brass or woodwind instrument for 10 weeks this term. 5KJ and 5AC will learn the clarinet and 5NS and 5PG will be learning the trombone or trumpet. The children will be loaned an instrument so they can practise at home and share the skills they have learned in school with you! 5PG and 5NS have their lesson on a Tuesday and 5AC and 5KJ on a Wednesday. We have secured funding for this so there is no additional cost to you. Please make sure the children bring their instruments to school on these days.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY:

In **History** this term, we will be aiming to answer the question “What was the most significant achievement of the Benin Kingdom?” As there was not much written down at the time, we will be studying the impact and importance of sculptures and the spoken word in passing down the story of the Edo.

In **Geography**, we will be learning about slums around the world to understand their key characteristics, how life in slums leads to a low quality of life with threats to safety and why people continue living in slums and migrate to urban areas from rural areas.

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS (PRE): In Autumn 1, Year 5 will explore the concept of pilgrimage and how it deepens faith for believers. After half term, pupils will learn about key Muslim beliefs, sources of authority and how these shape daily life, including worship, festivals and values such as generosity and self-control.

PSHE: Our personal, social, health and economic work will begin by addressing our school values and our rights and responsibilities, thinking about how our actions impact other people. In the second half term, we will look at celebrating difference, including anti-bullying and diversity.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES

Children are to come into school in their PE kits on the following days:

PE/Games Days: 5PG— Tuesday & Thursday 5NS — Monday & Thursday
5KJ— Wednesday & Thursday 5AC— Wednesday & Thursday

Shoulder-length hair should be tied back (boys and girls) and all jewellery removed. Recently pierced ears must be covered with tape supplied from home.

ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: This term, the children are exploring the genre of still life through painting, drawing, collage and relief. We are learning how artists use everyday objects to express meaning and how elements like line, shape, colour and texture contribute to composition and creativity. In the second half term, we will be making kites in Design and Technology. We will be analysing a range of different designs, evaluating them and then making our own.

HOME LEARNING: In order to consolidate learning, home learning tasks will be set each week.

- ◆ Please continue to support your child in learning their multiplication and division facts. To help with this, we ask children to practise their times tables online in addition to practising with an adult at home. Each child should spend 20 minutes each week on Times Table Rockstars.
- ◆ We ask that children log onto Doodle **daily** between 5-10 minutes a day which will help consolidate the learning that they do in class through our Maths No Problem scheme. All children should aim to get into the green zone each day.
- ◆ Weekly spellings will be sent home every Friday and tested the following Friday. We are using a new scheme which uses a phonics approach and will be teaching these spellings daily in school too. Children will also be expected to apply the spelling rules and patterns concerned in their writing.
- ◆ Please encourage your child to read daily and record this on their Reading Challenges- there is a lot of evidence that shows that regular reading is the single most impactful strategy for improving academic outcomes. We want children to be able to foster a love of reading, to be able to read fluently and to understand what they read. Please encourage your child to read a range of fiction and non-fiction books.

VISITS AND VISITORS: We are putting together an exciting programme of visits and workshops for the year. More information will be sent in the coming weeks.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's education or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher. We look forward to a happy and successful school year.

Mrs N Serle (Year Leader)

Mr P Gorsuch

Mrs K Johnson

Mrs Arnold and Mrs Carr

5NS

5PG

5KJ

5AC