



St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
Jersey
JE3 1NG

Telephone: 01534 863172
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St. Lawrence School Curriculum Letter – Year 5 Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 5 and what a great start we've already had to the new term!

I am very much looking forward to working with your children this year and supporting them to achieve their best.

We see Year 5 as a year of increased independence where we begin to prepare them for secondary school. A time when we expect them to begin to 'own their learning' and where we hope to see them beginning to work hard because they want to, rather than because someone is telling them to! I hope this is something we can work on together as parents, pupils and teachers.

There is nothing more important to a child than to know that their parents are really interested in their work. Having good conversations about what we do at school is a great way to encourage your child's learning.

To help these conversations, please find below an outline of the areas we will be covering this term:

Reading

In Reading this half term, our focus is on 'Myths and Legends'. We will be reading a variety of myths including *King Midas and the Golden Touch*, *Thesus and the Minotaur* and *Hercules*, and we will also look at an example of a legend in the form of *Robin Hood* as well as some from around the world. We will begin by thinking about the key features of each genre before reading a wide variety of texts and developing our responses to them. We will be using the acronym 'APE' (Answer it, Prove it, Explain it) to help structure our answers and will focus on finding evidence from the text to support our written responses. We will also be thinking about how different versions of the same story can exist and how originally these types of stories were passed on through oral tradition, or storytelling.

After half term, we will move on to studying non-fiction texts including biographies, newspaper articles and non-fiction books. These will link in with our work on space.

We ask children to have a reading book on their desks at all times and also encourage daily short reading sessions at home. These reading sessions should be recorded in their reading records, which will be monitored by the teachers.

Writing

In our writing sessions this half term, we will be writing our own myths. At first, we will work together to construct a class myth, and towards the end of the half term the goal is for children to write their own individual myth. We will be thinking about how myths often explain how something 'came to be' and this will be the theme for our class writing. We will also be learning how to create atmosphere and impact through creative writing and will use video clips as a stimulus.

After half term, we will be working on non-fiction writing with a focus on newspaper reports.

Throughout our writing sessions, the children will continue to use their knowledge of phonics and graphemes for spelling, various forms of punctuation, a variety of different sentence types and we will focus on using exciting vocabulary. We will also focus on handwriting with the intention of moving to using pens to write with.

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Spelling

On a Monday, children will be given their weekly spellings and tested on those from the previous week. They need to remember to bring their completed spellings in **at the latest on a Friday** so that these can be marked and targets can be set for the next week. Children will need to complete the dictionary definitions, synonyms, antonyms, alphabetical order and sentences. The sentence type will change every few weeks and it would be great for children to be given support in learning their words and completing this homework. **Children completing their spelling sheet (except the 'daily' aspect) before Friday will be given House Points** as this is trying to instil the value of completing homework as soon as possible (ready for secondary school).

Maths

In Maths we are following the 'White Rose' scheme and this term we will be covering the following units:

Place Value: Numbers to 1,000,000 (Block 1)

Numbers to 1,000,000 – reading, writing, comparing, partitioning and rounding

Addition and Subtraction (Block 2)

- 4-digit numbers – mental strategies, adding, subtracting, inverse operations, multi-step word problems and finding missing numbers.

Multiplication and Division (Block 3)

- Using and understanding multiples, common multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers, cube numbers and multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000.

Fractions (Block 4)

- Finding and recognising equivalent fractions and converting, comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting fractions.

We will also have daily fluency sessions to cover the 4 operations and consolidate previous learning.

Please continue to support your child to learn their times tables AT SPEED – this could be achieved in a variety of ways: apps, games, songs on YouTube, chanting, written tests. All children have a log-in to Times Tables Rock Star stuck in the front of their folders. This is a great resource for support with times tables. Without quick recall of the times tables, it is increasingly difficult for children of this age to access the maths curriculum. We will complete a times table grid each week in one of our fluency sessions.

White Rose at Home

The White Rose scheme offers free workbooks to parents to help support their child at home. The workbooks can be downloaded via the following link:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/free-downloads>

Science

This half term we will be studying Earth and Space including how the Earth and planets move in relation to the Sun, how the Moon moves in relation to Earth, and learning about why we get night and day.

After half term, we will move on to studying Forces, looking at the effects of gravity, air resistance, water resistance, friction and more. Both units link very well with our history work on space.

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History/Geography

This half term we start with our Geography topic about the diversity of places and landscapes in North and South America. We will be looking at different types of maps, studying the climate, learning about the human and physical features and finishing off by planning a journey through the Americas.

Our History topic for next half term is called 'Stargazers'. In history lessons we will be learning about The Space Race between the USA and the USSR and also learning about key historical figures such as Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton.

Art and DT

Our Art this half term will focus on artist Peter Thorpe. We will be designing and creating our own pieces inspired by our space topic and in the style of Peter Thorpe.

Later in the term we'll begin to design, make, launch and evaluate our water rockets. This is always a highlight of Year 5 and great fun.

P.E

Our P.E sessions this term will be:

Monday: Basketball

Tuesday: Swimming

ICT/Computing

In ICT this half term we will be learning about spreadsheets and how to use them to model real-life situations. After half term the children will focus on databases – how to use and create them.

Alongside this we will continue to have discussion about online safety.

French

The term will be split into 2 units: Pleased to Meet You and All About Ourselves. The children will be developing their ability to describe themselves including talking about future career aspirations and more detailed descriptions of themselves.

Music

Music this year is on a **Wednesday** please ensure that your child has their recorder in their bag on that day.

We'll start the term singing a sea shanty and move on listening to and appreciating gospel style music which will help us learn how to improvise with our voices. We'll continue to finish the lesson with a few minutes of recorder each week. If your child has lost their recorder a new one can be purchased from Mrs Wilderspin for £7.

PSHE

In preparation for the State Chamber debate the children will learn about how decisions are made in Jersey. As a class we will come up with a topic to debate and children will write a speech to persuade people to vote for what they believe in. After half term we will be exploring different types of stereotypes including gender and race. This ties into our reading of 'Hidden Figures' which explores segregation and discrimination in the USA.

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States Chamber Debate

On the **morning of the 30th of November**, Year 5 will be taking part in a debate in the States Chamber. In preparation for this, children will be deciding on a topic to debate and will be writing arguments for and against their chosen motion. More information will be sent out shortly, but this is always an exciting trip and one that the children really enjoy. Parents will be invited to watch the debate as our shared learning for this term.

Other information about Year 5

Folders and Homework

To help prepare for secondary school, the children will have one folder this year with all their times tables tests, spelling tests, reading records, maths and literacy targets. **It is very important that this folder is kept in their school bag so that it can be accessed every day at school.** We hope this will help them to be more organised and independent in managing their homework.

The key focus of homework for this half term is on their weekly spellings, daily reading, and times tables practice. Creating good habits around homework and seeing it as a part of their daily routine.

House Points

House points will be awarded for the children demonstrating the 'core values' of the school. They are, Success, Independence and Responsibility. It would be helpful if you can chat to them about what they can do to earn some house points. If you feel your child has been exceptional in any of these areas, please feel free to email us; we would love to celebrate it in school.

Star of the Week

Star of the Week is awarded on a weekly basis in our Friday assembly. It is a fantastic achievement and definitely one to be celebrated. Children will come home with a certificate to display.

Bike ability

Bike Ability sessions are offered by Jersey Sport for all year 5's. The initial assessment on Monday 14th of September will be followed by level 1 on the 5th of October. For all students that complete level 1, level 2 will be offered later in the year. No Bikes or helmets are required for the assessment.

If you have any questions, concerns or encouraging news regarding your child, please feel free to contact me:

e.diamond@stlawrence.sch.je

Thank you for your support.

I am looking forward to a happy and successful term with my new class.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Diamond

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	8.40-8.45	8.45-9.45			9.45-10	10.00-10.15	10.15-11.00		11-12.00	12.00-1.00	1.00-2.00		2.00-3.00		
Monday	Register	KS2 Assembly	Maths	<u>Basket ball</u>			Maths		Reading		Lunch	Spelling / SPAG		Computing	
Tuesday		Writing			Maths input		Maths	Fluency	Mrs Wilderspin - RE	Swimming		Swimming			
Wednesday		Handwriting	Maths		Maths input		Maths	Fluency	Reading	Mrs Wilderspin - French		Mrs <u>Wilderspin</u> – Music			
Thursday		Writing			Maths input		Maths	Fluency	Science	Science		PSHE			
Friday		Reading			Maths input		Maths	Fluency	Geography/History	Art/DT			Assembly		

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