



# St. Lawrence Primary School

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

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## St. Lawrence School Curriculum Letter – Year 5 Autumn Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

As you will know, in Year 5 there are two class teachers: Mrs Wilderspin and Ms Jansen. We are both 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 *Pandora's Box*, *King Midas and the Golden Touch* and *Hercules*, and we will also look at an example of a legend in the form of *Robin Hood*. 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' (**A**nswer it, **P**rove it, **E**xplain 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 can 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

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vocabulary.

## **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. Without quick recall of the times tables, it is increasingly difficult for children of this age to access the maths curriculum.

## **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 also 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 of these units link very well with our history and geography work on space.

## **History/Geography**

Our first topic for this year is called 'Stargazers'. We will not only look at the Earth, Moon, Sun and planets but we will further our knowledge by looking at constellations within our galaxy. In our 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. Our geography focus is to expand our locational knowledge by identifying countries, landmarks and geographical features as seen on satellite imagery and aerial photographs.

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## Art and DT

We started the term with an art day focusing on the artist Peter Thorpe and all our work is already on display outside the corridor. Feel free to pop in after school one day and have a look!

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:

**Wednesday:** Swimming (a separate letter will be sent regarding this)

**Thursday:** gymnastics then badminton after half term.

## ICT/Computing

This term, starting in October, Year 5 will be given the opportunity to work alongside the ICT and coding experts team, 'Hive Hackers'. This is a great opportunity to build on your child's digital skills.

## French

French lessons will continue with a focus on numbers to 39, school subjects, classroom objects and sports.

## Music

Music this term takes, as its starting point, Gustav Holst's "The Planets" as a basis for creative composition tasks leading to a class musical performance of a "Journey Into Space".

## Other information about Year 5

### Target 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.

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## States Chamber Debate

On the **afternoon of November 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

If you have any questions, concerns or encouraging news regarding your child, please feel free to contact Mrs Wilderspin in the first instance (and cc Ms Jansen) :

[v.wilderspin@stlawrence.sch.je](mailto:v.wilderspin@stlawrence.sch.je)

[a.jansen@stlawrence.sch.je](mailto:a.jansen@stlawrence.sch.je)

We are a partnership and by working closely together we can ensure that your child will be receiving the best possible support to move their learning forward.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to meeting those of you who are able to attend our Meet the Teacher(s) event on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 6 - 7:30pm.**

We are looking forward to a happy and successful term with our new class.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Wilderspin and Ms Jansen

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