Illuminated by Christ, we radiate His love.

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

Year 5 Curriculum 2026 – 2027

Together we learn

Autumn Term in Year 5 (2026/2027)

AUTUMN 1 • AUTUMN 2

† RE — Religious Education

Autumn 1 – Creation & Covenant

In RE, we will follow the Religious Education Directory: To Know You More Clearly. Our theme for Autumn 1 is Creation & Covenant. Children will learn about Moses' call and describe the significance of the Burning Bush. They will learn what a covenant is and about the signs of some of the covenants in the Old Testament. They will learn about the Ten Commandments and describe how they help people to live good and happy lives. We will also be developing an understanding of the virtues and their importance for a good life.

Catholic Social Teaching

Our theme will be Care for God's Creation, where we are called to protect both people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

Autumn 2 – Prophecy & Promise

Our theme for Autumn 2 is Prophecy & Promise. We will be learning about Kings of the Old Testament with a specific focus on King David – including his anointing, the story of David and Goliath, God's covenant with David. We will also be learning about O Antiphons.

Catholic Social Teaching

Our focus will be on the Option for the Poor: understanding that a fair society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members, whose needs should always come first.

Topic Focus

Autumn 1 – History

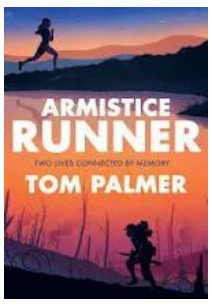
This half-term, our focus will be on History. We will be learning about World War 1 and the effect of the war on our local area. The children will use a variety of maps and sources to find out about different aspects of the war – from the very beginning of the war to the Armistice. They will find out about what life was like as a soldier and the impact of the war at home here in England. We will incorporate learning about the contribution that black soldiers made during World War 1 with a special focus on Walter Tull. Our local study will include learning about what happened at Upper North Street school in Poplar and how the war is remembered today. Our studies will culminate in a class assembly focused on our class work and Remembrance.

Autumn 2 – Geography

After half-term, our topic will be Materials and Natural Resources. The children will identify and describe Natural Resources. They will learn the difference between resources that can be replaced naturally (renewable) and those that are finite (non-renewable), including energy sources in the UK. They will use physical and political maps, atlases, globes, Google Maps and Google Earth, as well as digimaps to learn about the distribution of resources throughout the world. The children will also be asked to discuss sustainability and how resources can be used fairly throughout the world.

English

Autumn 1



In English, we will begin with the story Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer, which is a short novel following the story of a young fell-runner called Lily and the life of her Great-Great Grandfather who also ran during World War 1. The story focuses on the bravery of soldiers at the Front. The children will develop their descriptive writing by exploring the characters and setting, before writing diary entries and formal letters. They will develop their persuasive writing skills through studying World War 1 posters and speeches. They will also write some poetry about Remembrance linked to World War 1.

Our other book this term is Walter Tull's Scrapbook – we will focus on the life of Walter Tull and will write a biography of his life.

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Autumn 2

Our English lessons will be inspired by the poem Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll. We will start by learning and analysing the poem. We will then use our imaginations to write instructions to a Jabberwocky island and create Jabberwocky recipes. We will also read some of the stories from the collection by Jamila Gavin – Blackberry Blue. We will then write our own narrative using a twist on a traditional tale. The Year 5 curriculum overview also includes creature reports and descriptions of fairy-tale settings.

Maths

Autumn 1

In Maths we will begin by continuing to develop the children's understanding of Place Value – including Roman Numerals – reading and writing numbers to 100,000, comparing and ordering numbers to 100,000 and rounding numbers to 100,000. We will use practical equipment to support our learning. We will also be challenging the children with real life problems and puzzles. In Autumn 1 we will also learn how to use formal written methods to add/subtract numbers with more than 4 digits – we will learn how to solve more difficult multi-step problems and find missing numbers.

Autumn 2

In Autumn 2 we will learn about factors and multiples. We will also learn prime numbers, as well as square and cubed numbers. Children will also learn what happens to numbers when they multiply or divide them by 10, 100, 1,000. Finally, we will begin our Fractions journey – recognising equivalent fractions – converting mixed numbers and improper fractions. We will also learn how to add and subtract fractions. We will use many practical games and activities to support our fraction learning.

Science

Autumn 1

In Science we will study Life Cycles. We will develop learning about the life cycle of flowering plants, but we will also find out about how non-flowering plants reproduce. Using our beautiful school grounds, we will observe different plants and seeds closely and develop our scientific enquiry skills by creating keys to identify seeds and berries. We will be identifying the features of mammals, insects, amphibians and birds and comparing the differences in their Life Cycles. Children will be researching the life of important naturalists – David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. Inspired by spinning seeds, children will carry out a fair test using paper spinners.

Autumn 2

In Autumn 2 we will focus on the first part of Materials – pupils will be comparing and grouping together materials on the basis of their properties. Children will learn using practical observations about what happens when you mix soluble materials with water – they will make predictions and note observations using tables. They will learn about reversible and irreversible change.

We are looking forward to a wonderful Autumn term of learning together!