

**St James the Great Catholic Primary School**  
**Year 5**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. Thank you once again for your kind words, cards, and generous gifts—they were very much appreciated. As we begin the term, it's time for both children and teachers to settle back into learning. Please find attached the curriculum map for this term so you can see what your child will be covering.

Reading is a fundamental part of your child's learning, and your support at home makes a huge difference. We strongly encourage you to hear your child read regularly and to read with them as often as possible. Talking about books is just as important as reading them—children should be encouraged to share their opinions, explain what they like or dislike, and give reasons for their thoughts. For reluctant readers, comics and magazines are absolutely fine. In school, we promote a wide range of reading materials, including poetry and non-fiction, and encourage children to make connections between different texts.

Homework will continue to be set throughout the week and should be returned by the following Tuesday. Thank you for the ongoing effort you put into supporting your child's learning at home. We would also like to remind children that handwriting and presentation are important in all work, including homework. Please encourage your child to take pride in their work by writing neatly and clearly so that it is easy to read.

In addition to homework, please encourage your child to regularly use their Times Tables Rock Stars account, as this will help to strengthen their mental arithmetic skills.

PE lessons will continue to take place on Thursdays, with Dance lessons on Fridays. Please ensure your child comes to school with their full and correct PE kit, consisting of a white T-shirt, black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, and black trainers. Children will also need to bring their brass instrument to school every Friday.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We are very much looking forward to another positive and productive term together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Miss Hassett, Ms Deane and Ms Feese.

# SPRING TERM

English	<p><b>Book and film: The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan</b> Pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the progressive past tense to write multi-clause sentences.</li> <li>Make paragraphs cohesive using a range of fronted adverbials.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Dam</b> Pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on their use of appropriate adjectives and improve their vocabulary when describing a setting.</li> <li>Focus on including direct speech and how to lay this out using the correct punctuation.</li> </ul>
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solve single and multi-step problems involving all the four operations (+/-x÷).</li> <li>Interpret and use negative numbers in context, e.g. temperature or depth below sea level.</li> <li>Order and compare numbers within 500,000</li> <li>Consolidate understanding of tenths, hundredths, thousandths and decimal equivalents.</li> <li>Solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in a line graph.</li> </ul>
Science	<p><b>Earth and Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place the planets in the solar system in the correct order.</li> <li>Explain theories of planetary movement in the solar system using evidence.</li> <li>Explain why night and day occur at different times in different places on Earth.</li> </ul>
R.E	<p><b>Mission</b> We will look at the missions of inspirational leaders. We will discuss our local dioceses and the work that they continue to do.</p> <p><b>Eucharist</b> We will be looking at how the Eucharist keeps the memory of Jesus' sacrifice alive and present in a special way.</p>
Geography	<p><b>Mountains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a legend to find areas of higher ground on a map.</li> <li>Explain different ways areas of higher ground are shown on a map.</li> <li>Identify similarities and differences between mountain climates.</li> </ul>
History	<p><b>The Ancient Greeks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians.</li> <li>We will learn that Greece was divided up into small city-states, like Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Olympia. Each city-state ruled itself. They had their own governments, laws and army.</li> </ul>
P.E	<p><b>Gymnastics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To learn and perform rhythmic gymnastics with different items.</li> <li>To perform different counter balances, and counter tension shapes with a partner.</li> </ul>
D&T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To understand how simple cam mechanisms work.</li> <li>This term we will use cams in a toy and understand how changing the shape of the cam changes the movement of the follower.</li> </ul>
ART	<p><b>Chromatic- How realistic do portraits need to be?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To learn how to use watercolour paints with proficiency.</li> <li>To learn how to use shapes to guide the composition of a portrait, using measurements to control proportions in a face, using sketches to create lines for painting a miniature.</li> </ul>
P.S.H.E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term we will begin by looking at our feelings and how different situations can change our feelings.</li> <li>We will discuss coping mechanisms for when we are in difficult situations.</li> </ul>
Computing	<p><b>Data and Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This unit looks at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. Pupils use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data. They create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems.</li> </ul>
Music	Music notation and brass Instrument tuition – please ensure your child practises at home

