



Rivers Curriculum Overview

Term 1 – September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. We are so pleased to welcome the children back to school and are looking forward to an exciting and successful year ahead.

The children have reached an important stage in their primary school journey, and we are excited to see them grow in confidence, independence and maturity throughout the year. We have lots of exciting learning planned across the curriculum, with plenty of opportunities for the children to challenge themselves, develop new skills and, most importantly, enjoy their learning.

Maths – In Year 5, we'll begin the term by exploring number and place value, helping pupils deepen their understanding of our number system. We'll then move on to decimals, followed by an exciting look at the properties of shape. We'll finish the term by strengthening our skills in addition and subtraction.

In Year 6, our maths journey also starts with number and place value, before progressing to decimals. Pupils will then tackle multiplication and division, explore fractions, decimals and percentages, and finish the term learning about angles.

English – This term, the children will be developing their writing skills through a range of engaging and creative topics. We will begin by focusing on **narrative writing and creating suspense**, using the short film *Alma* as an exciting stimulus. We will then explore **different points of view** through writing a balanced argument, considering how to present opinions and support them with clear reasons and evidence. Towards the end of the term, we will focus on **punctuation and dialogue**, giving the children the opportunity to apply their punctuation skills when writing realistic and engaging conversations between characters.



Art – Mrs Nicholson will be looking at Painting and mixed media, focusing on portraits.

Science – In Science, the children will be learning about evolution and how living things have changed over millions of years. They will explore how fossils provide evidence about life in the past and investigate what fossils can tell us about extinct animals. The children will also learn about the work of palaeontologists and how they use evidence to piece together what life was like in the past. We will explore how animals and plants have adapted to their environments over time, considering why some characteristics help living things survive and how these changes can occur over many generations.

Computing – We will be looking at computing systems and networks focusing on communication and collaboration – how computers help us working together, focusing on data packets and how to protect ourselves online.

History – This term, we will be learning about the Blitz. We'll find out why World War 2 started and then focus on the Blitz, how Londoners were impacted and look at evacuees. Our WW2 focus will carry through to **Music**, where we will be learning some WW2 songs on the ukulele. If your child has a ukulele at home, please could they bring it in on Tuesday afternoons, ideally tuned in advance. (I like to use [Ukulele Tuner - UkeBuddy](#)). Otherwise we have plenty of ukes in school.

French – We'll be looking at introductions and greetings this term, focusing on reading and writing, as well as speaking.

PE – This term, Gymnastics will take place on Wednesdays and Tag Rugby on Fridays. Please ensure that children bring their PE kits on both days, as they will be getting changed at school. Pupils should arrive in their normal school uniform, with their kit packed and ready to change into.

We'll continue with 'The Daily Mile' – a fun and active break where children enjoy a quick run around the school grounds.

RE – This term, we are studying Islam. We'll be looking at the concept of Tawhid, the uniqueness of Allah, and how it creates a sense of belonging within the Muslim community.

Homework:

- Please support your child by encouraging them to read for at least 20 minutes, four times a week.
- **Mathletics:** Children should aim to complete around 20 minutes, four times a week. New activities will be set each week. This is especially key for Y6. We will be sending all information home early next week.
- Please also keep practising times tables a few times each week.



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- Spellings – please help your child to practise the 8 spellings they receive each week in time for a test each Friday.

Please remember, if you have any worries or concerns about your child, please contact the class teacher via the @letters email address.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Virgilio and Mrs Ramsden



