

# YEAR 5 CYCLE A CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A broad and balanced curriculum that builds knowledge, sparks curiosity and helps every child to flourish.

LOOK  
LISTEN  
THINK  
QUESTION  
EXPLORE  
GROW ♥

EXPLORE  
LEARN  
RESPECT  
BELONG  
FLOURISH ♥

SMALL  
STEPS  
BIG  
FUTURES ♥



## HISTORY-LED DYNAMIC DYNASTIES

### BIG QUESTION

**What can we learn from ancient China and the Shang Dynasty?**

We explore ancient China, the Shang Dynasty, artefacts, beliefs, power and everyday life, and discover the legacy this civilisation left behind.



## GEOGRAPHY-LED SOW, GROW AND FARM

### BIG QUESTION

**How does farming shape lives, places and the food we eat?**

We investigate land use, allotments, farming in the UK and the Americas, climate zones and food transportation, making links to science, art and nutrition.



## HISTORY-LED GROUNDBREAKING GREEKS

### BIG QUESTION

**Why does ancient Greece still matter today?**

We learn about life in ancient Greece, city states, democracy, the Olympics, myths, architecture and the lasting influence of Greek ideas.

DEMOCRACY  
OLYMPICS  
MYTHS  
PHILOSOPHY  
ARCHITECTURE  
INFLUENCE

## WHAT PARENTS WILL SEE IN THIS OVERVIEW

Each topic page shows the key learning, memorable experiences, suggested texts and practical challenges from the Year 5 Cycle A class plan. Alongside these themed units, children also explore religious education across the year, computing, music, PE, French and PSHE.

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

BIG IDEAS  
BRIGHTER MINDS  
KINDER HEARTS  
BRIGHTER TOMORROWS ♥

DISCOVER  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
BELONG TOGETHER ♥

## HISTORY-LED TOPIC

# DYNAMIC DYNASTIES

Explore ancient China and the Shang Dynasty while making links across science, art, design, English and religious education.



### HISTORY

Explore ancient China, the Shang Dynasty and the evidence historians use to understand the past. Learn about oracle bones, bronze casting, jade and silk, power, warfare, religion, social hierarchy, everyday life and the legacy of the Shang.



### ART

Use colour theory to mix tints, tones and shades, then create landscapes inspired by this theme. Explore taotie motifs, watercolour techniques and decorative artwork linked to ancient Chinese artefacts.



### SCIENCE

Investigate contact and non-contact forces, including gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance. Explore levers, pulleys and gears, then learn about Earth and Space, the Solar System, the Earth, Sun and Moon, the phases of the Moon and day and night around the world.



### DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design and make moving mechanisms using pneumatic systems. Build and improve a pneumatic prototype, thinking carefully about joining, finishing and the iterative design process.



### RE

Explore Dharma Day through the Buddhist flag, the Wheel of Dharma and the idea of compassion, making thoughtful links between belief and daily life.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

The Yellow Emperor and the Xia Dynasty; exploring pneumatics; exploring taotie motifs; Buddhist flag.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Bronze and Sunflower – Cao Wenxuan; Investigating Our World – Collins Junior Atlas.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Life after the Shang Dynasty; investigating forces and mechanisms; designing a pneumatic prototype; researching Earth and Space; making taotie pieces; exploring compassion.

### ASK ME ABOUT

Ancient China.  
The Shang Dynasty.  
Oracle bones.  
Bronze and jade.  
Forces and mechanisms.  
The Solar System.  
Compassion.

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SMALL  
STEPS  
BIG  
FUTURES

FARM  
FOOD  
PEOPLE  
PLACES  
A BRIGHTER  
TOMORROW

## GEOGRAPHY-LED TOPIC

# SOW, GROW AND FARM

Explore farming, food and land use while making links across geography, science, art, design and English.

NORTH  
AMERICA  
SOUTH  
AMERICA

HEALTHY  
FOOD  
HEALTHY  
PEOPLE



## GEOGRAPHY

Investigate land use in the UK, allotments and farming in the UK and the Americas. Use maps and grid references, learn about climate zones and physical features in North and South America, and explore how food is grown and transported.



## SCIENCE

Learn about food chains and webs, life cycles, plant reproduction, growing plants and modern farming. Explore human reproduction and ageing through careful observation, classification, research and scientific enquiry.



## ART

Create still life artwork and explore line, light and shadows. Study the work of Pablo Picasso and Rembrandt, use shading techniques, draw on black paper and create nature-inspired art using natural materials.



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Learn about seasonality, cooking and nutrition. Prepare healthy food, make seasonal soups and think carefully about ingredients, presentation and healthy choices.



## RE

Make thoughtful links to Dharma Day by exploring compassion and how beliefs can encourage care for people, communities and the wider world.

## MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Allotment visit; line, light and shadows; Eat the Seasons – seasonality; Nature's Art – working outdoors.

## SUGGESTED TEXTS

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett; Investigating Our World – Collins Junior Atlas.

## INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Market gardeners; human reproduction and ageing investigation; creating artwork with line, light and shadows; seasonal soups; creating a nature installation.

## ASK ME ABOUT

Allotments.  
Farming in the UK and the Americas.  
Grid references.  
Food transport.  
Life cycles.  
Healthy seasonal food.

FRESH  
IDEAS  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES

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PLANT  
GROW  
HARVEST  
SHARE  
A KINDER  
WORLD

EXPLORE  
LEARN  
RESPECT  
THINK  
DISCOVER  
TOGETHER

## HISTORY-LED TOPIC

# GROUNDBREAKING GREEKS

Explore ancient Greece while making links across science, art, design, English and religious education.

PEOPLE  
PLACES  
CULTURE  
IDEAS  
DEMOCRACY  
A BRIGHTER  
TOMORROW

CURIOSITY  
BUILDS  
A KINDER  
WORLD



### HISTORY

Explore ancient Greek civilisation from the Minoans to the Hellenistic period. Learn about city states, democracy, social hierarchy, the Acropolis, the Olympic Games, Alexander the Great and the lasting legacy of Greek culture, art, philosophy and mathematics.



### SCIENCE

Investigate the properties and changes of materials, including conductivity, solubility, mixtures, sieving, filtration, evaporation and reversible and irreversible changes. Use scientific enquiry to test, compare and explain materials.



### ART

Create mixed media artwork using paper and fabric, then explore the Expressionist movement through portrait photography, self-portraits and the work of Edvard Munch.



### DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Study architecture over time, learn about Greek architecture, and design structures that are strong and stable. Use planning, model making and computer-aided design to create building designs.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Meaning of colour; the 'go without' challenge; special meal; Time Team; paper craft; architecture over time; what is Expressionism?

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

*Who Let the Gods Out?* – Maz Evans.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

The ancient Greeks' greatest idea; a materials investigation; creating mixed media artwork; building design; creating an Expressionist-style painting.

### ASK ME ABOUT

Ancient Greece. Democracy. The Olympics. Greek myths. Materials. Architecture. Gratitude and freedom.

IDEAS  
PEOPLE  
CHANGE  
THE WORLD



### ENGLISH

Read and write Greek myths, balanced arguments, playscripts and odes, using the ideas, characters and achievements of ancient Greece to inspire thoughtful writing.



### RE

Explore Holi, Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, and Passover, making links to needs, gratitude and freedom while reflecting on beliefs and traditions.

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PHILOSOPHY  
MATHEMATICS  
ART  
SPORT  
DEMOCRACY

EXPLORE  
BELIEVE  
RESPECT  
LEARN  
TOGETHER

DIFFERENT  
PEOPLE  
BRIGHTER  
WORLD

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACROSS CYCLE A

Six units invite children to explore beliefs and practices respectfully, while thinking deeply about compassion, needs, gratitude, freedom, community and the power of words.

KINDNESS  
BUILDS A  
BETTER  
TOMORROW

RESPECT  
UNDERSTAND  
BELONG  
FLOURISH



## DHARMA DAY

Buddhist flag; Wheel of Dharma; Compassion.

We explore Dharma Day, learning about Buddhist symbols and how the idea of compassion can shape the choices people make.



### Big question:

How can compassion shape the way we live?



## HOLI

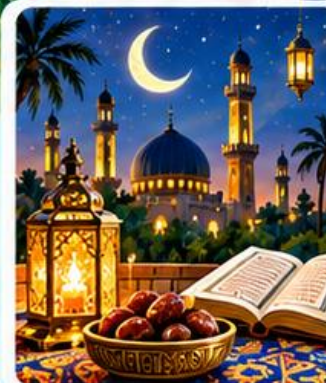
Meaning of colour; Holi celebrations; Needs.

We learn about Holi and think about how colour, celebration and community can help us reflect on what people need to flourish.



### Big question:

What do people need to flourish?



## RAMADAN AND EID AL-FITR

Sacrifice; Islamic Hijri calendar; Ramadan customs; Gratitude.

We explore Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, learning how fasting, prayer and celebration can encourage gratitude and self-discipline.



### Big question:

How does gratitude change us?



## PASSOVER

Plagues of Egypt; Seder plate; Traditions and customs; Freedom.

We learn about Passover, the story it remembers and the importance of tradition, identity and freedom in Jewish life.



### Big question:

Why is freedom important?



## PENTECOST

Pentecost; Community.

We explore Pentecost and think about how the Christian story encourages people to share, serve and build community.



### Big question:

How can communities help people belong?



## GURU ARJAN GURPURAB

Guru Arjan; Golden Temple; Guru Granth Sahib; Words.

We learn about Guru Arjan Gurburab and reflect on the importance of words, worship and the Golden Temple in Sikh faith and practice.



### Big question:

How can words bring people together?

## LITERACY & LEARNING ACROSS THE YEAR

**Writing genres:** narrative poems, biographies, stories from another culture, non-chronological reports, diaries, leaflets, balanced arguments, Greek myths, playscripts and odes.

**Learning by doing:** The Yellow Emperor and the Xia Dynasty, allotment visit, seasonal soups, Time Team, paper crafts, architecture over time, learning languages and modelling the Golden Temple.

**Linked across the curriculum:** making thoughtful connections between learning in RE, English, history, geography, science, art, design & technology, computing, music, PE, French and PSHE.

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EXPLORE

DISCUSS

READ

CREATE

CONNECT

BIG IDEAS

BRIGHTER FUTURES

KINDER HEARTS

STRONGER TOGETHER

CURIOSITY  
COMPASSION  
COMMUNITY