

GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S LEARNING: Autumn Term 1 2026/27 - Year 5/6 North America

Overview: Through our Geographical study of North America, we will learn about the physical and human features, including the Rocky Mountains and the volcanic eruptions at Mount St. Helens.

Books/Text Based Learning



Autumn Term: Eagles and Swallows

Term 1: Friday 4th September 2026 to Friday 23rd October 2026.

(Half term: Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November 2026).

Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026.

(Christmas holiday: Saturday 19th December 2026 to Sunday 3rd January 2027).

English

Using the text Holes, we will be writing a narrative based on the story as well as an information report about the lizard in the story. We will also be learning how to vary our openers in our writing, including using adverbials, subordinating conjunctions and verb openers. We will also learn about identifying formal and informal vocabulary.

Mathematics: Year 5

The children will focus on place value up to 1,000,000 before rounding numbers within 100,000. They will then focus on using addition and subtraction methods to solve multi-step problems.

Mathematics: Year 6

The children will revisit their place value knowledge as well as rounding any integer. They will also practise written methods for multiplication and division, including long division.

Science: Materials

The children will compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, response to magnets and electrical and thermal conductivity. They will have classified materials in different ways, explaining their classification criteria. They will have planned, carried out and interpreted an investigation in trying to answer a question about the most suitable material for a given function.

Art and Design/Design and Technology

The children will be introduced to 3D Forms, looking at the work of Frank Edgar Wright.

Computing

In computing, the children will learn how to be safe online and about the features of an effective video, editing and improving it.

Geography/History

In geography, the children will learn the following:

How to locate North America on a map; identifying the countries of North America; exploring the Rocky Mountains range; the effects of the Mt St Helen's eruption; comparing the landscapes of US states.

Music

The children will learn how dance music is created, focusing particularly on the use of loops.

Physical Education

PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon at Shepeau Stow and Friday at Gedney Hill. Mr Barron will teach basketball and hockey.

Personal, Social, Health Education

The children will be learning 'Being Me in My World'.

Religious Education

The children will be investigating 'How do Muslims show that they belong?'

Technical Subject Vocabulary

The Caribbean	hardness
Central America	solubility
Denali	transparency
Great Lakes	conductor
Mississippi River	Insulator
Longitude	thermal conductivity
Latitude	electrical conductivity
Hemisphere	magnetic
Physical features	
Human features	

German

Mrs Simpson will continue to teach German.

Year 5 Spelling Rules

Words ending in -tious
and -ious

Words ending in -cious

Words ending in -cial

Words ending in -tial

Year 6 Spelling Rules

Short vowel sound /i/
spelled 'y'

Long vowel sound /igh/
spelled 'y'

Words that can be nouns
and verbs.

oa sound spelt 'ou' or 'ow'