Phonics/English

This half term we explore a range of high-quality texts which will promote imagination, discussion, drama and writing opportunities. The children will predict how different stories will end and then retell them in their own words. They will focus on characters and will ask questions about them. They will link the characters' experiences to their own using drama and role-play. They will then decide which story they liked most and give reasons for their choice. The children will also have access to multiple story baskets available in the classroom environment, which will be changed half-termly. This will allow children to be exposed to a range of texts and allowed to build rich vocabulary and imaginative skills.

The main book we will read and implement into the afternoon subjects is:

- Beegu by Alexis Deacon (Fiction)

Additional Books:
Poetry – Out and About a First Book of Poems
Leaf Thief
Pumpkin Soup
Pattan's Pumpkin

Alongside this, the children will engage with daily phonics lessons to support sound recognition, blending and reading.

Maths

During this half term, we will start by recapping some prior learning from Reception. Our classrooms will provide mathematical environments and learning opportunities where the children can independently explore their prior learning. Additionally, the children will explore Year 1 objectives. We will focus on the following Units:

- Unit 1: Numbers to 10.
- Unit 2: Part-whole within 10.
- Unit 3: Addition within 10.

Times table focus:

- Count in 2s to 24
- Count in 10s to 120

KIRF – Key instant recall facts

- Number bonds to 10

Year 1 Newsletter
Autumn 1 2026
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PSHCE & Relationships

Healthy and Happy Friendships: How can we make friends and get along? (Negotiating rules)

In PSHCE we will be thinking about happy and healthy friendships. We will be learning about how to get on with other people and exploring what makes a good friend. We will be thinking about kind and unkind actions and how to resolve problems with others. We will also explore the importance of sharing and taking turns.

Additional Units:

- ★ Consent
- ★ National Recycle Week
- ★ World Mental Health Day

Science

What's happening outside in Autumn and Winter?

Our topic this half term is Changing Seasons. Although we revisit this topic throughout the year as the seasons change, we will begin by looking at autumn and winter. The children will explore the differences between the seasons, identify and design weather symbols for the different types of weather they are likely to experience across the seasons. Working scientifically, children will make observations and measurements over time throughout the seasons including day length, temperature, rain/snow fall, wind strength, cloud conditions and the accompanying changes to plants and animals in their local environment. They will describe and record their findings and compare them across the seasons.

PE and Sport

Fundamentals and Target Games

This half term in PE we focus on two different units. The children will build their fundamental skills through exploring movement, speed and direction. In Target Games, the children will play various games, learning the different roles within these games and learning about how to aim at a target.

On PE days please send your child to school in their PE kit.
PE kit reminder: White T-shirt, black joggers, black hoodie and plimsolls or trainers
PE days for Year 1:
1LT – Tuesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor)
1KB – Tuesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor)

Music

Ourselves– (Exploring sounds)
Explore ways of using their voices expressively developing singing skill and performing actions to create an expressive story.
Number– (Beat)
Developing a sense of steady beat through using movement, body percussion and instruments.
Classical Musician Focus
Vaughan Williams – Lark Ascending

Religious Education

How should we care for the world and for others, and why does it matter?

In R.E. the children will be learning about how we can and should care for the world and for others and why it matters. We will focus on a Humanist story – The starfish thrower. The children will be exploring a range of questions and faiths that have been previously taught, alongside our own beliefs, as to how we can care for our world and for others. Children will be using their knowledge of role play to act out parts of the story and will become activists for change. The children will also consider the impact they have on the wider world and why it is important for everyone to care.
We will use our focus on our 3 characters who help us think like a Theologian, Philosopher and a Human and Social Scientist. These Characters are:
Theo – Theologian
Sophie – Philosopher
Livvy – Human and Social Scientist

Computing

Introduction to Purple Mash

- Logging in and out of PM
- Opening and using 2Dos
- Saving work in the work area

Creative Computing

- Making digital art
- Making and sharing jigsaws
- Making a drag and drop game

2BeSafe – Self-image and Identity and Online Relationships

- Feeling sad, embarrassed
- or upset online
- Trusted adults for support
- Permission
- Adult support
- Respect
- Feelings online

History

Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder plot

Children will learn about Guy Fawkes and the events of the Gunpowder Plot. We will use speaking and listening activities, such as hot seating and role play, as well as sequencing events of the plot. We will also find out how bonfire night has been celebrated in Britain over time.

Art

Exploring colours

This half-term in Art we will be exploring colours. We will look at and explore primary and secondary colours, and colour mixing using the work of Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky to inspire our own work. We will look at and explore a range of techniques and materials to create a range of art pieces, leading to a final piece, where we will have an art gallery with our peers and complete evaluations to discuss what worked well and how we could improve future work.

Information and reminders

- We will be sending books/ditties home weekly with the children's reading diaries. The children will also be provided with the RWI text that they have recently read during their phonics sessions. Please try to read with your child at home as much as possible. Reading regularly will support your child tremendously with their reading, fluency and identifying sounds. Children may also be sent home with some speedy sounds to support with fluency.
- Reading diaries and water bottles should be in school every day.
- Our whole school reading challenge – Everytime a child reads at home, they can colour in a square of our thermometer. Each 25 reads we receive a clue to a mystery book. At 100 reads, the book is revealed!
- All children will gain access to School 360, Emile and TimesTables Rockstars. These logins will be available in the front of their planner.
- We will upload weekly updates on Tapestry on a Friday of an overview of the children's learning, until Christmas.
- Children will be given weekly spellings to practise in their planners, which will be part of their RWI lessons.
- Children will also have access to Times-Table Rockstars and Emile where they will be able to practice their spellings and 2, 5 and 10 times tables at home and in school.
- We are a toy and pencil case free school, everything your child needs will be available in school.