Year 1 Newsletter
Autumn 2 2026

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:

- Emperors Egg (Fiction)

Additional Book:
Winter Sleep

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 3: Addition within 10.
- Unit 4: Subtraction within 10.
- Unit 5: 2D and 3D shapes.

Times table focus:

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

KIRF - Key instant recall facts

- Add and subtract within 10

Science

Animals including humans

This half term and next half term in science we will be focusing on Animals including humans. We will learn the names and locations of main body parts, including their simple functions. We will explore and understand all 5 of our senses and how they are vital to our bodies. As well as this, we will look at different groups of animals and understand why/how they are grouped, their different body parts and will compare them to humans.

PSHCE & Relationships

Our Similarities and Differences - How can we recognise and celebrate our similarities and differences?

In PSHCE we will be thinking about our similarities and differences. We will be learning about what traits make us similar to others and how we differ from people around us and others around the world. We will be thinking about ways we can celebrate our similarities and differences, focussing on diversity, respect and also treating others kindly and fairly. We will also explore the importance of treating everyone as equals, but sharing that everyone is unique.

PE and Sport

Mindful Movement and Invasion Games

This half term in PE we focus on two different units. We will use our prior knowledge of Yoga and develop a clear understanding of the importance it has on our bodies and mind and learn a variety of poses and stretches, in a safe and calm manner. We will use our team work skills in Invasion Games by completing a variety of activities and using our critical thinking skills on how to attack and defend.

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 -
1KB -

Music

Christmas Performance

- Children will sing and perform Christmas and carol songs from memory with the understanding that the choruses are repeated.
- Perform to a crowd with an awareness of the need to look at their audience.
- Follow instructions for when to sing, perform and move.
- To work collaboratively with others in a performance as a large ensemble.
- To improvise simple rhythmic and melodic accompaniments to songs

Christingle service in church

Religious Education

What do Christian's believe God is like?

In RE this half term, we will look to answer our key question 'What do Christian's believe God is like?'. We will do this by:
Identifying what a parable is.
Learning the story of the Lost Son from the Bible and recognising a link with the concept of God as a forgiving Father.
Learning the story of Jonah.
Give examples of how Christians put their beliefs into practice in worship.
We will explore this through role playing and hot seating opportunities, questioning, storytelling, exploring hidden meanings in the stories etc.
This Year, we also will be introducing 3 characters who will 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
These 3 Characters will play an important role in our RE lessons this year and will help support us with our learning.

Computing

Data Explorers

Sorting and grouping quizzes
Understanding what data is
Representing data electronically

2BeSafe - Online Reputation

Online information
Trusted adults

Geography

Is the weather the same around the world?

- Name and Locate 7 continents on a world map.
- Equator introduction
- Climate around the world
- Seasonal and daily weather patterns locally.

Outside observations and fieldwork

DT

DT: Making story puppets (Textiles)

DT: Making Christmas cards with slider mechanism

This half-term we will be bringing some of our favourite storybook characters to life by creating our own story puppets. We will look at and compare different materials and experiment with a variety of materials, to see which one we think is best to make a hand puppet. We will use different methods to join our puppets together, design them and evaluate our puppets at the end. We will also be making Christmas cards using slider mechanisms to create movement.

Information and reminders

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- We will continue to send books/ditties home weekly with the children's reading diaries. The children will also continue to 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 should have access to School 360, Emile and TimesTables Rockstars. These logins will be available in the front of their planner. If you have any issues, please speak with your child's class teacher.
- 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.