



Year 1 Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Welcome to the spring term!

We are very excited to welcome the children back for the spring term and to share the exciting learning planned for the months ahead. Building on the strong foundations developed in the autumn term, the children will continue to develop new skills, explore a range of engaging topics and grow in confidence and independence. Below you will find an overview of the subjects we will be covering this term.

Maths

This term, Year 1 will continue to build secure foundations in maths through the Power Maths programme. Children will deepen their understanding of numbers to 20 and extend this to explore numbers up to 50. They will develop confidence in addition and subtraction within 20, using practical resources, visual models and simple number facts to support their learning.

Alongside number work, children will explore measurement by comparing and measuring height and length, as well as investigating mass and capacity through hands-on activities. Throughout the term, pupils will be encouraged to use mathematical language, explain their thinking and apply their skills to real-life problem-solving, helping to build confidence, curiosity and enjoyment in maths.

English

In the first half term, Year 1 will be working on the Growth and Green Fingers English unit, which is taught through three linked units: Classic Stories, Traditional Rhymes and Instructions. Children will explore the classic story The Enormous Turnip, using prediction, sequencing, drama and vocabulary work before innovating the tale and writing their own simple story. They will also learn and perform traditional rhymes linked to growing and plants, before moving on to writing clear, simple instructions, for example how to plant a seed, while continuing to develop sentence writing, capital letters and full stops.

In the second half term, the theme will be our Family Album, which focuses on traditional tales and personal recounts. Children will enjoy listening to and retelling well-known stories, exploring characters and events, and then creating their own simple stories. Later in the unit, they will write recounts based on family events and special memories, helping them to develop sequencing, sentence writing and confidence in sharing their own experiences through writing.

Religious Education

This term, the children will explore two RE themes. They will begin by learning about What made Jesus special?, exploring Christian beliefs about Jesus and the qualities that Christians believe made him important, such as love, kindness and forgiveness. Later in the term, children will focus on Easter, considering the question What do you think is the most important part of the Easter story? They will listen to and talk about the Easter story, share their own ideas and reflect on its meaning for Christians.

Science

Year 1 will continue to study everyday materials, continued from Autumn Term. They will explore materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass, rock and water, describe their properties and carry out simple investigations. These will include testing which materials float or sink and whether they are reflective. This hands-on approach will help children build scientific language and develop their observation and problem-solving skills.

In the second half term, pupils will be learning about animals, including humans, with a focus on body parts. The children will identify and name common body parts, learn what they are used for, and compare body parts in different animals. The learning will be practical and discussion-based, helping children build confidence with scientific vocabulary.

Art

This half term, in Art, Year 1 pupils will explore simple printmaking. The children will experiment with making prints using a range of materials, creating patterns and textures by pressing, rolling and stamping. They will explore colour and shape, develop fine motor skills, and build confidence in trying new creative techniques while enjoying the process of making art.

Geography

In Geography this half term, Year 1 will be learning all about the weather. The children will observe and talk about daily changes in weather, record what they see using pictures and simple sentences, and keep a class weather chart across the week. They will also learn about the four seasons, explore how weather affects our daily lives, and begin to use maps to find places that are hotter and colder than the UK.

History

This term in History, Year 1 will continue to learn about how toys have changed over time. They will compare their own favourite toys with those from previous generations, including Victorian toys and explore the materials toys were made from. Children will discover that not all children had the same toys, make and play with traditional toys and interview grandparents about their experiences. The unit will end with a class "Toy Museum," where children share their learning.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, Year 1 will learn about windmills and how wind can make objects move. Children will design, make and test their own windmill, selecting suitable materials and learning how to join parts safely. They will explore how their windmill works, make changes to improve it and talk about what was successful. Throughout the unit, pupils will be encouraged to be creative, follow simple plans and evaluate their work.

Computing

This term, children will continue developing their coding skills, creating simple sequences of instructions (algorithms) to make characters move and complete tasks, while building confidence in problem-solving and logical thinking.

PSHE

In PSHE, Year 1 will continue to develop their understanding of positive relationships and keeping themselves safe. Children will take part in a Dogs Trust workshop, learning how to stay safe around dogs and how to behave responsibly. They will also focus on road safety, learning how to stay safe as pedestrians and recognising safe places to cross.

Later in the term, children will have age-appropriate lessons exploring bereavement, helping them to understand feelings linked to loss and how to talk about emotions and seek support. Throughout the term, pupils will be encouraged to listen to others, show kindness and respect, and know who to ask for help if they feel worried.

PE

Last term, Year 1's PE programme was adapted by switching the gymnastics unit to a robot dance unit to link closely with learning in English. During this unit, children created and performed simple robot-style movements and sequences, focusing on timing, control and expression. This term, pupils will return to gymnastics, where they will explore shapes, balances and different ways of travelling, and begin to link movements into simple sequences. Alongside this, they will develop their underarm throwing skills, focusing on control, accuracy and working with a partner.

Music

In music, Year 1 will explore dynamics through a seaside-themed unit, using voices, bodies and instruments to create sounds that are loud or quiet to represent different seaside environments. They will develop control of sound and begin combining dynamics into simple seaside soundscapes. Later in the term, pupils will study sound patterns

(rhythms) through a fairytale theme, where they will clap and play rhythmic patterns, explore syllables in words and use voices and instruments to represent sound patterns linked to familiar stories.

Kind regards,

The Year 1 Team