



## Year 1 Summer Term Newsletter 2026

### Welcome to the summer term!

We hope you all had a lovely break and are so pleased to welcome the children back for the summer term. It's always a special time of year, and we are looking forward to all the learning, progress and memorable moments ahead as the children continue to grow in confidence and independence. Below you will find an overview of the subjects we will be covering this term and what your child will be learning.

### Maths

This term, Year 1 will continue their learning through the Power Maths programme, focusing on key areas including multiplication and division, fractions, position and direction, numbers to 100, money and time. Children will be introduced to multiplication and division through grouping and sharing, and will begin to understand fractions such as halves and quarters using practical resources. They will extend their knowledge of number by working with numbers to 100, developing confidence in counting, recognising and representing larger numbers. Pupils will also explore position and direction, using mathematical language to describe movement and turns. In addition, children will learn to recognise and use money, as well as tell the time to o'clock and half past.

### English

In the first half term, Year 1 will be working on The Great Outdoors English unit, which includes three linked areas: stories with familiar settings, information texts and traditional rhymes. Children will explore stories set outdoors, using prediction, sequencing, drama and vocabulary work before creating and writing their own simple stories. They will also read and create information texts as well as learn and perform traditional rhymes, continuing to develop their sentence writing, capital letters and full stops.

In the second half term, the theme will be Fire! Fire!, which focuses on repetitive patterned stories, poetry and non-fiction texts. Children will explore stories with repeating patterns, helping them to retell and then write their own simple narratives. They will also read and perform poems linked to fire and events such as the Great Fire of London, before creating their own. Later in the unit, children will write simple information texts, developing their ability to sequence ideas, write clear sentences and share their understanding through writing.

### Religious Education

In the first half term, children will think about belonging and baptism. They will explore questions such as What does it mean to belong?, What is a promise? and Why are names important? Children will learn about baptism and why it is special to Christians, including how people of faith welcome new babies and new members into their community. They will also consider what makes someone feel part of God's family and how promises are made and kept.

In the second half term, children will explore My world, Jesus' world. They will learn about where Jesus grew up and how life was different in the past compared to today. Children will think about what they would notice if they could visit Jesus' world, including what they might like to see and what they might miss, helping them to develop an understanding of similarities and differences between then and now.

### Science

In the first half term, Year 1 will continue to learn about plants, building on their learning from the autumn term. Children will explore a variety of plants in their environment, asking questions and observing them closely using their senses. They will compare different plants by identifying similarities and differences and begin to describe what they see using simple scientific vocabulary. Children will gather information about plants and record their findings using drawings, labels and simple sentences, including creating their own plant book.

In the second half term, pupils will be learning about animals, including humans, with a focus on classification. Children will identify and name a range of common animals, including mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, and begin to group them in different ways based on their features, such as number of legs, body coverings and where they live. They will compare animals by discussing similarities and differences and explain their thinking using simple scientific language.

## **Art**

This term, in Art, Year 1 pupils will explore watercolour painting. The children will experiment with the unique properties of watercolour, using techniques such as washes, wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry to create a range of effects. They will explore colour mixing using primary and secondary colours, as well as making marks, lines and shapes to develop their ideas. Children will also look at the work of artists and use their imagination to create their own paintings, building confidence in expressing themselves creatively while enjoying the process of exploration.

## **Geography**

In Geography this half term, Year 1 will be learning about the United Kingdom. Children will learn that the UK is made up of four countries—England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland—and will begin to locate these on simple maps. They will explore the capital cities of each country and learn about some key landmarks. Pupils will also begin to use maps, atlases and simple keys to find and describe places, using positional and directional language such as left, right, near and far. They will develop their understanding of the seas surrounding the UK and build confidence in using geographical vocabulary to talk about places.

## **History**

This term in History, Year 1 will be learning about The Great Fire of London. Children will find out when and where the fire started and explore how it spread across the city. They will sequence key events, use sources such as pictures, paintings and Samuel Pepys' diary to learn about the past, and begin to understand how we know about historical events. Pupils will investigate why the fire spread so quickly and how people tried to stop it, before exploring how London changed afterwards. The unit will also encourage children to ask questions, share their ideas and develop an understanding of how life was different in the past.

## **Design and Technology**

In Design and Technology, Year 1 will explore Cooking and Nutrition by designing and making their own ice lollies. Children will begin by exploring and evaluating existing products, identifying ingredients and making simple healthy choices. They will then create their own design criteria and design an ice lolly, before preparing and making it safely using basic food preparation skills such as cutting, pouring and mixing. Pupils will evaluate their finished product against their design, thinking about what they like and how it could be improved, and will also create a simple advert to present their ideas. Throughout the unit, children will develop practical skills, follow simple instructions and build confidence in preparing food.

## **Computing**

This term, children will develop their computing skills through two units. In the first half term, they will explore how data can be represented using pictograms, collecting simple information and presenting it using pictures. They will learn how to organise data and interpret what it shows by answering simple questions.

In the second half term, children will build on their coding skills through the Maze Explorers unit. They will use simple programs to move characters, creating and following sequences of instructions (algorithms). Pupils will learn to test and debug their code when things do not work as expected and will begin to create their own challenges for others to solve.

## **PSHE**

In PSHE, Year 1 will focus on understanding themselves and their feelings. Children will explore what makes them special and recognise that everyone is unique. They will learn to identify and talk about different feelings, understand how feelings affect them and begin to share their emotions with others.

Children will also develop empathy, learning to recognise how others may feel and how to show kindness. In addition, they will learn about trusted adults and the role of the police in helping to keep people safe.

## **PE**

In PE, Year 1 will develop their fundamental movement skills through a range of activities. In the first half term, children will focus on athletics and kicking, practising skills such as running, jumping, throwing and controlling a ball with their feet. In the second half term, pupils will explore gymnastics, developing balance, coordination and simple sequences of movement, alongside ball skills where they will practise rolling and controlling a ball with increasing accuracy. Throughout the term, children will build confidence, improve coordination and learn to work safely and cooperatively with others.

## **Music**

In Music, Year 1 will develop their understanding of pitch, tempo and musical symbols. In the first half term, children will explore pitch by identifying and performing high and low notes, creating simple patterns and recognising changes in tempo. They will work collaboratively to share ideas, practise pieces and perform, while beginning to talk about their musical choices and give simple feedback.

In the second half term, pupils will focus on musical symbols, using movement and sound to represent characters and respond to music. They will learn to recognise and read simple symbols for pitch, rhythm and dynamics, and apply this understanding in their singing, playing and performances.

We are looking forward to a fantastic summer term full of learning and new experiences, and we thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

The Year 1 Team