AUTUMN CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Year 1 -Autumn term 2026

Welcome to Year 1!



We hope you and your families have had a wonderful summer break. We are very excited to welcome the children to a new school year in Year 1. We are very much looking forward to getting to know everyone and having a fun, productive term ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you have any questions or need anything as we get used to new routines, please feel free to get in touch.

Warm regards,

The Year 1 Teaching Team



ENGLISH

This term in English, we will take part in daily handwriting sessions to strengthen gross and fine motor skills, helping children develop confident, fluent letter formation.

Our main text focus will be the traditional tale The Three Billy Goats Gruff, explored through the Talk for Writing approach. We will learn the story through oral rehearsal, story mapping and drama, before contributing to a class-written innovated version of the tale. This supports the development of vocabulary, narrative structure and early sentence composition.

In the second half of the term, we will explore and innovate a losing tale, giving children further experience in understanding story patterns and character feelings. We will finish the term with Christmas themed instructional writing, where we will learn how to write clear, sequenced instructions linked to festive classroom activities.

PHONICS & READING

This term, the children will continue to participate daily in our phonics programme, Little Wandle, where they will be taught sound recognition for both reading and spelling. They will also receive an additional afternoon phonics 'blast' or catch-up session, and throughout the day will encounter phoneme–grapheme recognition and tricky-word reading activities within classroom provision.

The children will take part in three reading practice sessions each week, read regularly with volunteer readers, and visit the school library weekly. We will also enjoy a daily story-time session to promote reading for pleasure and support language development.

MATHS

This term, we will begin the Year 1 White Rose Maths scheme. In the first half term, we will work through units on place value, addition and subtraction. In the second half term, we will move on to shape and place value to 20.

MASTERY MATHS

We will also take part in an additional daily Maths Mastery session, using familiar practical equipment to help children retain and embed key number facts. This supports a secure understanding of the number system, including number bonds and doubles.

SCIENCE

We will start our Year 1 science by exploring the seasons. We will complete the autumn section of a season's diary and return to it later in the year so we can compare the differences.

We will then begin our unit on "Human Senses". The children will be developing their scientific skills of observation, making comparisons and carrying out simple tests. The children will have a chance to explore the importance of our senses and how they help us to navigate our world. They will record their results in simple tables and through drawings.

HISTORY





This term, our history learning will be based on The Great Fire of London. We will explore what happened during this significant event, how and where the fire started, and why it spread so quickly through the wooden houses of 1666. We will learn how London was rebuilt in a more organised and safer way, how the fire led to changes in the way houses were constructed, and how it contributed to the establishment of a fire service. We will also study Samuel Pepys as a significant person, finding out why his diary is so important in helping us understand what life was like at the time. Throughout the unit, we will use drama, role play, simple mapping and hands-on activities to help us build a clear picture of this major event in British history.

Vocabulary:

fire engine	bakery	London
firefighter	River Thames	17th Century
fire	St Paul's Cathedral	Samuel Pepys

D&T

In DT this term, we will explore a range of everyday structures such as playground equipment, street furniture and bridges. We will investigate what these structures are used for, how they are made, and what makes them strong, sturdy and robust. Linking to our story focus The Three Billy Goats Gruff, we will design and build our own new bridge, applying taught techniques in folding, cutting and joining to create a structure that is stable enough for the goats to cross safely. Through practical exploration and model-making, we will develop a clear understanding of how strong structures are engineered.

ART

In Art this term, we will focus on developing drawing skills. We will explore a range of tools—including pencils, crayons, pastels, charcoal and ink pens—to experiment with different techniques and create simple line drawings, shapes and imaginative pieces. We will also study the work of the famous artist Joan Miró, looking closely at his playful use of colour, line and abstract shapes to inspire our own creative artwork.



JIGSAW

In PSHE this term, we will be following the Jigsaw scheme. Our first topic, Being Me in My World, focuses on helping children feel safe, settled and confident within their class community. We will explore how our actions affect others, learn about rewards and consequences, and think about what it means to be a responsible and valued member of the class.

Following this, we will move on to Celebrating Difference. In this unit, we will explore what makes each of us unique, celebrate individuality, and identify similarities and differences between ourselves and our peers. This supports children in developing respect, empathy and positive relationships.



MUSIC

In music the children will be developing their understanding of rhythm and be given opportunities to create and perform their own sequences. We will be learning songs and explore using percussion instruments and chime bars to accompany songs.
The children will be able to listen to different genres of music and start to identify the different instruments they can hear and discuss how it makes them feel.

RE

In RE the Hedgehogs will be looking at the topic of "temptation". The children will discuss how we can make the right choices, and how our behaviour choices affect others and ourselves. The children will be listening to stories and sharing thier own experiences.

PE

Outdoor PE this term will be on a Tuesday and indoor PE will be on a Friday with Tigers Trust. The children will be exploring movement, ball skills and team work through playing invasion game. For indoor PE the children will be exploring gymnastic sequences. They will develop their balance and large motor skills.
Please ensure that all PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name
Reminder: School rules state that hair should be tied back and earrings removed or taped up for PE in line with health and safety.