

Year 1 Newsletter

Spring Term 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you have all had a wonderful break.

Autumn Term Review: The children have worked extremely hard during the autumn term to settle into Year 1. There have been lots of new routines, challenges and experiences and the children have tackled these well. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing them continue to blossom.



Last term, as scientists, we have been learning about our senses and naming parts of our bodies. We have enjoyed using our senses to guess smells and tastes. We have found out about materials, naming and grouping common materials and investigating their properties.

As artists, we have learnt how to sketch fruit, looking carefully at different sketching techniques including scribbling, hatching, cross-hatching and dotting. We have used pencils and pastels to create still life pictures of fruit.

During our Computing lessons the children have explored, designed and created our own algorithms. We have had great fun using digital paint programmes to design emojis, robots and lettering.

The key question that we have explored in RE is: 'Who is Muslim and how do they live?' The children have listened to different viewpoints and have offered their own opinions. They have also enjoyed learning about some practices that are important to some Muslims.

As historians, we have explored the changes in transport through time. We learnt about key historical figures in the evolution of automobile travel from Henry Ford to Elon Musk. We even considered how cars might develop and change in the future.

Some Pets, It's My Birthday and How Many Sleeps Till Christmas? are the wonderful stories that have been the focus of our English lessons. Children have worked extremely hard to improve their writing of sentences, remembering a capital letter, a full stop and finger spaces. We introduced writing on handwriting lines with yellow guidelines and the children have worked so hard to learn how to form and orientate their letters correctly.



In our Maths lessons, the children have investigated numbers to ensure they fully understand what each number means and know ways to make that number. We manipulated numbers into part-part-whole models and used the symbols for greater than, less than and equal to. We have used number lines to help us with our addition and subtraction calculations. We learned the names of 2D and 3D shapes.

As Geographers the children have been learning about the locality of our school. The children have been investigating about Human and Physical geography, and they have been discovering what makes an area rural or urban.

In My Life, we have been exploring our feelings and discussing our emotions. We identified special people in our lives both in our families and at school and why they are special to us. The children were encouraged to think about themselves and identify all of the things that make them special.

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As artists we will be exploring how artists create a still life painting. Finding out about the artist Caravaggio (1571-1610) and how to mix warm and cold colours with an understanding of primary and secondary colours.

As digital creators, we will be completing a unit called 'Digital Painting'. We will develop our understanding of a range of tools used for digital painting. Then use these tools to create our own digital paintings, while gaining inspiration from a range of artists work.

As technologists, within our unit of work Free Standing Structures, we will be designing, making and evaluating our own desirable playground for our local community to promote inclusion and physical wellbeing in young people.

We are beginning this term with reading Little Red Riding Hood. We will practise writing sentences from the story and describe the characters and settings.

As mathematicians, we will add and subtract within 20, investigate place value to 50, measure length, height, mass and volume.

As musicians, we will be exploring pitch and tempo in a meaningful way. The children will learn how to identify high and low notes and to compose a simple tune as well as exploring different instruments. They will also have the chance to perform using percussion instruments with the rest of the class acting as the audience.

Our key question in RE is 'What does it mean to belong to a faith community' and 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' The children will find out about the key beliefs of Christians and begin to develop their understanding of what it means to be part of a community.

As scientists, we will continue our learning about Materials. We will learn which materials float, which are waterproof and how to select materials for a particular purpose. We will also look at seasonal changes and identify key features of Winter. The children will learn how long the days are in Winter and compare this to other seasons.

As historians, we will be learning about Florence Nightingale and her incredible contribution and influence towards hygiene and cleanliness in our hospitals today.

As geographers, we are learning all about what the weather is like in the United Kingdom. We will be identifying the features of winter and spring and will be identifying weather patterns. We will also be using a globe and an atlas when completing map work and will learn about the capital cities in the UK.

In our My Life lessons, we will be learning about keeping ourselves fit and healthy. We are learning how exercise makes our hearts work harder to pump the blood around our bodies.

Reading at Home: Thank you to all of you who support your children by reading at home daily. We are noticing a huge difference in progress in those children who are consistently reading. Please keep up the good work – you are making an amazing difference to your child's future by helping them learn to read now. Please remember that the expectation is that your child reads at home five times a week and that this reading is recorded in their Reading and

Homework diary. We keep a record of the children who read weekly so they can be rewarded with house points and in with a chance of taking home Charlie the Chimp.

Library: We will continue to visit the library each week. This is usually a Tuesday for 1B and a Monday for 1H, so please ensure that your child has their library book in school.

Homework: Active Maths homework will continue to be issued on Seesaw on a Friday. Please continue to support your child in completing this work and speak to your class teacher if you have any queries or questions relating to homework. When your child has completed it, please upload it to Seesaw so that we can reward your child with house points for their efforts.

Spellings: Just a reminder that spellings will continue to be set on a Wednesday via Seesaw to be completed in our spelling quiz the following Wednesday. The words the children receive are based on the sounds that your child has been learning in phonics so they will be familiar to the children. Please support your child by practising the words at home. Remember to upload or hand in your child's work and we will reward them with house points for their efforts.

Phonic Screening Check: All children in Year 1 will be required to sit a Phonic Screening Check during the week of **Monday 10th June**. It is important that your child is in school that week. The Phonic Screening Check is taken individually by all children in Year 1 in England. It is designed to assess each child's reading ability, checking whether it meets the appropriate standard.

Parents' Evening: Parents' evening appointments will be held on Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th February.

School Lunches: Parents/Carers need to book for school lunches on ParentPay by midnight on Tuesday for the following week. Please see the office if you need any help with ParentPay.

Thank you! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the gifts that you sent in for Christmas. We were very touched by your kindness.

Thank you,
Mrs Holland, Miss Jones, Mrs Bryan and Mrs Lloyd.

