YEAR ONE

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026



Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you back to school and the start of Year 1. We are very excited about the start of the new term! We have lots of fun activities planned that will help the children settle back into school allowing them to adapt to new routines and build on existing friendships and make new ones.

EVERYDAY NECESSITIES

Please ensure your child brings their jumper, coat, water bottle and book bag (containing their reading book and reading journal) to school each day.

PE kits should be kept in a named draw-string bag and taken home each half term to wash.

- School T-Shirt in house colour with school logo
- Plain navy blue or plain black PE shorts
- Trainers
- PE socks for girls who wear tights to school

READING AT HOME

We will not be giving out reading books until Tuesday 8 September so that we have had time to read with each child and assess where they are to ensure we start them on the right book. In the meantime,

please continue to use the fabulous local libraries / Red Cross bookshop etc. to enjoy stories with your child and share as many books as you can.
Children will continue to have their books changed once a week (every Monday). This is because we want children to read their books three times to help them develop all of their reading skills.

- The first read will focus on their decoding skills - to read phonically regular words and recognise common exception words.
- The second read should focus on their understanding of what the text is about.
- By the third read we want your child to feel like an expert and enjoy sharing the story with fluency and explore using expression. Expression can be usefully modelled by you reading a sentence using the correct expression and your child copying it.

SPELLING

Spelling is taught explicitly. In each year group, there are a number of Common Exception Words (CEWs) which do not always follow phonological/spelling rules. Children will regularly practise these words within class. The words that the children are learning are words that they will be expected to apply in their own writing across the curriculum. We will send home CEWs for your child to practice each week.

PE

PE sessions will take place every Wednesday and Thursday. PE kits will need to be brought to school in a named PE bag and can be left in our PE chests until the end of each half term. Your child will be changing for PE in the classroom each session. Any practice they can have of taking off their uniform, making sure the clothes are not inside out and folding them neatly ready to put on again would be appreciated!

CURRICULUM

Autumn 1:

- ART: Exploring different types of lines. Self portraits in a variety of different ways: pastels, pens, painting, pop-art. We will look at the artists: Picasso, Seurat, Warhol
- SCIENCE: Learning about parts of our bodies and grouping animals.
- PE: Gymnastics
- RE: Creation Story - Key Question: What do Christians belive God is like?
- MUSIC: Keeping a steady pulse using a variety of instruments. Learning about low, medium and high pitch.
- ENGLISH: Letter formation and handwriting, ensuring the children have the correct pencil grip and form letters correctly. This is me: writing informative sentences about themselves. Writing a list: The Gingerbread Man
- PHONICS: Recap of Phase 4 blending sounds to read and write words
- MATHS: Place value and addition and subtraction facts for 5 and 6, Geometry and shape 2D, addition and subtraction 7-11
- PHSE: Beginning and Belonging - how to manage new situations, who can help me at home and school
- COMPUTING: Exploring different painting programmes (We Are Painters - digital portraits: Rothko, Kandinsky).

Autumn 2:

- ART: Exploring different types of lines. Self portraits in a variety of different ways: pastels, pens, painting, pop-art. We will look at the artists: Picasso, Seurat, Warhol
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is my school and local area? Looking at aerial views and maps.
- MATHS: Place value to 20), addimg and taking away 1, 3D shapes
- PE: Dance / Ball Skills
- RE: Why does Christmas matter and how do people celebrate it.
- MUSIC: Sounds interesting - exploring sounds
- PSHE: My Emotions - understanding and managing feelings
- ENGLISH: The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark, Tiddler, Stickman, Christmas Present
- SCIENCE: Seasonal changes: Autumn and Winter
- DT: Christmas moving pictures
- COMPUTING: Exploring different painting programmes (We Are Painters - digital portraits: Picasso, Matisse, Opie).

READING CHALLENGE

As in Reception, a key area of the curriculum continues to be reading. As an incentive to promote reading we would like to introduce our special Year One Reading Challenge:

For an extra bit of fun, we have created a challenge grid with lots of exciting and interesting tasks. If your child completes 20 of the tasks by Christmas and has each task signed by a parent, they will receive a special reading certificate. We will stick a copy of the challenge in the back of the reading journals and talk to the children each week about which challenges they have enjoyed. We hope you have fun completing the tasks and look forward to hearing about them.

R	E	A	D
Read with a friend	Read under a blanket	Read with a torch	Read a picture book to a younger sibling or younger family friend
Read for 15 minutes	Read in the shade under a tree	Read at the dinner table	Read in a den made from blankets
Read in your pyjamas	Read in a sleeping bag	Read to a grand parent or family friend for 15 minutes	Read 2 books by the same author
Read a joke book	Read the cereal box	Read whilst eating an apple	Read to a pet
Read whilst sitting on the stairs	Read on a blanket in a park	Read at your friend's house	Read during a rain storm
Read while snuggling a teddy	Read while wearing fancy dress	Read after a club such as swimming	Read a mystery
Read at the public library	Read in an extreme place	Read for 30 minutes	Read a non–fiction book
Read to a parent for 30 minutes	Read a comic	Read two books from the same series	Read your favourite book

COMMUNICATION

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask and we are looking forward to meeting you over the course of the year.