

Autumn Term Year 1

Maths

In Year 1, children begin by developing a strong understanding of place value within 10, learning to count, compare and order numbers. They then use this knowledge to solve simple addition and subtraction problems using objects, pictures, and number lines. In geometry, pupils explore 2D and 3D shapes, recognising, naming and sorting them based on their properties. These foundations support confident number sense and spatial awareness.

English

This term, children will explore stories linked to the theme of Childhood, using high-quality picture books as writing stimuli. Through daily storytelling, drama, and shared writing, pupils will build confidence in retelling familiar tales with clear beginnings, middles, and endings. They will learn to write in the past tense, use capital letters and full stops, and sequence their ideas orally before writing. Each week culminates in an independent retelling to reinforce key writing skills.

Science

In Year 2 science, pupils explore materials by identifying and comparing everyday objects based on properties such as hardness, flexibility, and absorbency. They investigate how materials can change shape and which are best suited for specific purposes. The next topic is seasonal changes in which the pupils begin to observe and describe seasonal changes, focusing on the transition from autumn to winter, including changes in weather and daylight.

RE

In Year 1, children explore big questions through RE, starting with "What do my senses tell me about the world?", where they use their senses to reflect on how we experience and understand the world around us. In Autumn 2, the children learn "How does a celebration bring a community together?", exploring different religious and cultural celebrations to understand how shared events create a sense of belonging and togetherness in communities.

Autumn Term Theme

Childhood

This term, children learn about everyday life and families today, including comparisons with childhood in the 1950s, using artefacts and a range of different sources. Learning is brought to life through cross-curricular links in English, DT, and History.

PSHE

In Year 1, children begin their *myHappyMind* journey by learning about the brain in the "Meet Your Brain" unit. They discover how different parts of the brain help them learn, remember, and manage emotions. In the "Celebrate" unit, children focus on recognising their own strengths and the strengths of others, helping to build self-esteem and positive relationships.

Music

In Year 1, the Charanga curriculum introduces children to djembe drumming, where they explore rhythm, pulse, and dynamics through simple patterns and call-and-response. They also begin to appraise music by listening carefully and describing how it makes them feel. In singing, children develop pitch, rhythm, and expression through a variety of songs, building confidence and musical awareness.

Computing

In Autumn term, In Year 1, children explore "Technology Around Us" by identifying everyday technology and learning basic computer skills like using a mouse and keyboard. In Autumn 2, "Digital Painting", they use simple tools to create artwork of past and current monarchs, experimenting with colour, shape, and brush styles to build confidence with digital creativity.

PE

In outdoor PE, pupils develop control and coordination through ball skills, including throwing, catching, rolling, bouncing, and kicking, while building teamwork and preparing for later games.

In indoor PE, pupils develop core skills in shape, movement, balance, and jumping through activities that improve coordination, control, and body awareness. They explore different ways to move and balance safely, linking actions together with fluency and confidence.

Art & DT

For Art in Autumn 1, children explore sketching by using pencils to make different marks, lines, and shades. They practise holding a pencil correctly and looking closely at shapes, patterns, and textures to develop control and confidence in their drawing.

In Year 1, children explore mechanisms by designing and making simple moving toys. They learn how moving toys work and use basic tools to join parts and create moving parts. Through this, they develop their understanding of how things move and begin to build early engineering skills.

Humanities

In History, the children will explore toys from the past and present and learn how toys have changed over time by comparing similarities and differences in children's lives.

In Geography, the children will explore their school and its surroundings, using simple maps and positional language to describe key places and features.

Spring Term Year 1

Maths

In Spring term, Year 1 children build on their early number knowledge by exploring place value within 20 and 50, developing confidence in counting, ordering and comparing numbers. They deepen their understanding of addition and subtraction within 20 using practical resources and mental strategies. Pupils also begin to measure and compare lengths, heights, mass and volume using non-standard and standard units, applying maths to real-life contexts.

English

This term, children will explore royal life and leadership through a variety of picture books linked to our Kings and Queens topic. They will retell traditional and modern royal stories, learn to structure their writing with a clear beginning, middle and end, and practise using capital letters and full stops in the past tense. Oracy and drama will support their storytelling, and each week will culminate in an independent written piece inspired by the week's book.

Science

In Year 1 Science, pupils will observe how seeds and bulbs grow into plants and learn what they need to grow healthily, such as water, light, and warmth. They will also explore seasonal changes, focusing on how the environment changes from spring to summer.

RE

In Year 1, children explore the question "What do Jewish people remember on Shabbat?" to begin understanding beliefs and practices in Judaism. They learn about the importance of rest, family, and tradition, and how Shabbat helps Jewish people remember and celebrate God's creation. Through stories, objects, and simple activities, children develop respect for different faiths and ways of life.

Spring Term Theme

Kings and Queens

This term, children explore the lives of significant monarchs and historical events in our Kings and Queens topic. Learning is brought to life through cross-curricular links in English, art, and geography.

Humanities

In History, the children will learn about significant monarchs by exploring the lives of Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III and understanding why they are important to British history.

In Geography, the children will learn about the four countries of the United Kingdom by identifying England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland and exploring where they are located.

PSHE

In Year 1, "Appreciate", they learn to recognise and express thanks for the people and things around them, helping to boost happiness and kindness.

In "Relate", children develop skills like active listening, understanding others' feelings, and managing conflict calmly, supporting positive friendships and teamwork.

Music

In Year 1, children use djembe drums to explore rhythm and pulse, learning how to play simple patterns with control and coordination. As they gain confidence, they begin to create their own short rhythmic sequences, introducing the basics of composition. Through music appraisal, they listen to and talk about different pieces, developing their ability to recognise changes in tempo, volume, and mood.

PE

For Spring 1 PE, pupils develop fundamental skills through football, focusing on kicking, attacking, and defending. They learn to control the ball, pass accurately, and understand basic tactics like finding space and marking opponents, helping to build teamwork and game awareness.

For Spring 2 PE, pupils build their understanding of teamwork by working cooperatively in games and activities, learning to communicate, share, and support others. They also explore health and fitness, developing awareness of how exercise affects the body and why keeping active is important for overall wellbeing.

Art & DT

In Art, children explore collage and 3D art by cutting, tearing, and sticking a variety of materials. They learn to layer textures, shapes, and colours to create simple 3D effects. Through hands-on activities, they develop fine motor skills and begin to plan and build their own creative artwork.

In DT, children design and build simple bridges, exploring which materials make structures strong and stable. They learn how to join parts, test their designs, and develop basic construction and problem-solving skills.

Computing

In Year 1, children learn about programming by giving instructions to move a robot, helping them understand sequencing and direction. They explore how to plan and test simple algorithms to solve problems.

In Spring 2, "Grouping Data", children sort objects into groups based on different criteria, learning how information can be organised and used to answer questions.

Summer Term Year 1

Maths

In Year 1, pupils build on number skills by learning multiplication and division through grouping and sharing, exploring halves and quarters in fractions, describing position and direction in geometry, extending place value to 100, recognising coins and notes in money, and telling the time to the hour and half hour—developing fluency, reasoning and real-life problem-solving.

English

This term, children will go on exciting story adventures inspired by picture books linked to our Explorers topic. Through stories set in space, across oceans, and around the world, pupils will learn to sequence events using a clear beginning, middle, and end. They will develop their ability to write in the past tense, use capital letters and full stops accurately, and explore ideas through drama and oral storytelling. Each week will build towards an independent piece of narrative writing that reflects their growing confidence as storytellers.

Science

In Summer 1 Science, children learn to name and group a variety of common animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, identifying whether they are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores.

In Summer 2 we introduce another topic where they also explore the human body by identifying and naming basic body parts and linking them to the five senses.

RE

In Year 1, children explore “What does the cross mean to Christians?”, learning that it is a special symbol representing Jesus and the Easter story. They begin to understand how it reminds Christians of love, sacrifice, and hope.

In Summer 2, “How did the universe come to be?”, children reflect on different ideas about the origins of the world, including religious and non-religious beliefs, encouraging them to think deeply and ask big questions.

Summer Term Theme

Explorers

This term, children set off on an exciting journey to discover famous explorers and their incredible adventures around the world. Learning is brought to life through cross-curricular links in English, history, and geography.

PSHE

In Summer of Year 1, the *myHappyMind* unit "Engage" helps children learn how to set goals and stay motivated. They begin to understand the importance of trying their best, keeping a positive attitude, and not giving up when things are challenging. This unit encourages a growth mindset and helps children build confidence in their ability to learn and improve.

Computing

In Year 1, children develop their digital skills through "Digital Writing", learning to use a keyboard and mouse to type, edit, and format text. They explore how digital tools can be used to communicate ideas clearly.

In Summer 2, "Programming Animations", children create simple animations by sequencing instructions and using basic coding blocks, helping them understand how to control digital content through programming.

Music

In Year 1, children are introduced to composition by creating simple musical patterns using voices, instruments, and body percussion. They explore how sounds can be combined and changed, experimenting with rhythm, tempo, and dynamics. Through guided activities, they begin to plan, practise, and perform their own short pieces, developing creativity and confidence in making music.

Art & DT

In Summer 1 art, children explore painting by using brushes and other tools to apply colour in different ways. They experiment with mixing primary colours to create new ones and learn how to paint lines, shapes, and patterns. Through painting, they express ideas, develop control, and begin to make choices about colour and technique. For Summer 2, children explore textiles by designing and making simple puppets. They learn how to cut, join, and decorate fabric using basic tools and techniques. This helps them develop fine motor skills, creativity, and an understanding of how textiles can be used to create functional products.

Humanities

In History, the children will explore the seaside in the past and present and learn how seaside holidays and leisure activities have changed over time.

In Geography, the children will learn about the world by naming and locating the continents and oceans, developing an early understanding of the wider world.

PE

In Summer term, In Year 1 PE, pupils develop key physical skills through striking, running, and jumping activities. They practise striking with hands and equipment, improve their running technique for speed and control, and explore different types of jumps. These skills help build coordination, strength, and confidence in preparation for team games and athletics.

For Summer 2, pupils explore dance by learning to move with control, rhythm, and expression. They create and perform simple sequences, using different shapes, levels, and movements to respond to music and themes, helping to develop creativity, coordination, and confidence.