



Bramham and Shadwell Federation

Curriculum Newsletter: Class 1 April – May 2026



English		Maths		Science	Geography
<p>Focus Units: Through the Read Write Inc. programme, we will continue to build on the children’s reading by developing their confidence and accuracy with all of the sounds they have learned so far. They will be practising applying this knowledge when reading a range of real and nonsense (alien) words, helping them become more fluent, smooth and expressive readers. Alongside this, we will provide regular opportunities for children to apply their phonics knowledge in their writing, supporting independence and accuracy. As we approach the national Phonics Screening Check in June, this continued practice will help ensure children feel confident and well prepared.</p> <p>Handwriting: In handwriting, we will focus on accurate letter size and position so that all letters sit neatly on the line. Children will practise forming ascending letters (b, d, f, h, k, l, t) to be taller and descending letters (g, j, p, q, y) to drop below the line. We will also continue securing correct formation of capital letters. As formation becomes more secure, we will work on refining letter size to support speed, legibility and writing confidence.</p> <p>Reading for Joy: Daily story time will introduce a range of texts linked to our theme of resilience.</p>		<p>Focus Units: Multiplication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Making equal groups ➤ Adding equal groups ➤ Making equal rows ➤ Making doubles <p>Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grouping equally ➤ Sharing equally <p>Fractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Making halves ➤ Making quarters ➤ Sharing and grouping <p>Numbers to 100</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Counting to 100 ➤ Finding tens and ones ➤ Comparing numbers 		<p>Focus Unit: Plants We will be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying common wild and garden plants, including trees • Learning about the basic parts of plants (roots, stem, leaves, flowers) • Exploring what plants need to grow and stay healthy <p>In class, children will plant seeds, observe how plants grow, and take part in lots of outdoor activities such as plant hunts.</p>	<p>Focus: What is life like in the Arctic Circle? Children will learn what the Arctic Circle is and where it is located on a globe, including understanding that it is made up of several countries. We will explore how it compares to Antarctica and identify key countries within the region. Children will describe Arctic weather and recognise how it differs from the UK.</p> <p>We will investigate the Arctic coast, comparing it to coasts in England, and identify animals and features found there. Finally, children will learn about what life is like in the Arctic Circle and how people and animals adapt.</p>
Art: Sculpture	P.E: Football	Computing: Creating Media: Digital Writing.	PSHE: Growing Up Smart!	Music: High and Low Exploring Pitch!	RE: How and why do we care for others?
Children will explore the work of Andy Goldsworthy and have the opportunity to design, create, and evaluate their own ice sculptures. They will experiment with texture and pattern.	In PE this half term, Year 1 will be developing their football skills, practising passing, dribbling, and shooting, while taking part in fun, team-based games to build confidence and coordination.	In computing, the children are now confidently logging in to their laptops and will continue to build their skills. Next, they will practise using the keyboard to type, add and delete text, and begin to explore simple tools to change the appearance of their writing.	Children will learn about the world of jobs, money, and making smart choices. They will discover different careers and start to understand how people earn money. We will explore spending wisely and learn the importance of saving. They will also develop their problem-solving skills by thinking carefully, making decisions, and tackling everyday challenges.	This term, the children will be identifying and describing pitch. They will explore the sounds created by a variety of different instruments and voices, describing their pitch and timbre. They will play listening games and identify simple pitch patterns in a range of songs and music, recognizing when the pitch gets higher or lower.	Children will develop an understanding of the importance of caring for others and what this means and looks like for people of different religious backgrounds and worldviews.

Here are some helpful reminders of the resources you can access at home to support your child’s learning and key vocabulary that we would encourage you to explore with your child to help them with their learning.

English	Please listen to your child read and encourage them to read with expression. You can ask your child the questions in the books to support their understanding.
Maths	Online access to Numbots Playing counting games. Practise number bonds to 10 and 20. Key vocabulary: add, subtract, divide, multiply, equal to, lots of, groups of, double, sharing, more than, less than.
Science	When outside, discuss the signs of Summer and how we can tell the season is changing. Talk about plants you see and helping your child care for a plant or flower. Key vocabulary: Plant, tree, flower, leaf, stem, root, evergreen, deciduous, water, sunlight, soil, air, seed, grow, germinate.
Geography	Key Vocabulary: Arctic, North Pole, South Pole, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Canada, Alaska (USA), temperature, coast, sand, ice, frozen, sea.
Art	Key Vocabulary: sculpture, sculptor, medium, texture, pattern, transparent, design, evaluate
PE	Activities to support children’s balance and coordination, such as riding a bike or scooter, hopscotch, walking like a crab, hopping, balancing on one leg, throwing and catching a ball.
Computing	Keyboard skills. Key Vocabulary: log in/username, password, home row, space bar, caps lock, enter, save.
PSHE	Key Vocabulary: job, work, career, earn, skills, money, cost, save, bank, choice, decide, solution, needs, wants, share, fair, kind, responsibility, care.
Music	Key Vocabulary: pitch, timbre, high, low, identify, describe
RE	Key Vocabulary: empathy, compassion, support, love, patience, understanding.

Other ways to support at home:

- **Talk it through:** Ask your child to explain their thinking when solving a problem or making a choice. This builds reasoning, confidence and resilience.
- **Build independence:** Let children attempt tasks on their own before stepping in, praising effort and perseverance rather than speed.

PE days will be Monday and Wednesday.
Please could children come into school in PE kit.

- **Monday 4th May** – School closed for Bank Holiday
- **Friday 22nd May** – Break up for May Half Term
- **W/C 8th June** – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- **Thursday 11th June** – Progress Café – Y1
- **Wednesday 24th June** – Sports Day

Parent Visitors – Sharing Jobs and Careers

As part of our PSHE learning about jobs and careers, we will be inviting parents and family members into school to talk to the children about their roles. A separate letter with more information and sign-up details will be sent out shortly—please keep an eye out. We would love to welcome as many of you as possible to share your experiences with the class.