

Termly Newsletter Spring 2025

Year 1



Welcome back and Happy New Year!

It has been so lovely welcoming the children back to Year 1 and seeing them settle straight back into school life with such enthusiasm.

A quick reminder to please ensure children bring their home readers into school every day — these little books do a big job! Children earn Dojo points for remembering them, which all adds up towards their Golden Time on Fridays.

Thank you also for your continued support in ensuring children are wearing the correct school uniform. We carry out weekly uniform checks, and yes... you guessed it — more Dojo points are up for grabs!

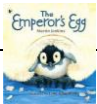
Below you will find an overview of our curriculum and what we will be learning in each subject this term. If you have any questions, please feel free to catch me at the gate or contact the school office.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support — we're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Miss Flashman

English - Writing

This term, children will explore both non-fiction and fiction writing through our key texts **The Emperor's Egg** and **Cinderella**. Using The Emperor's Egg, children will learn about non-fiction features and practise retelling information. Through Cinderella, they will explore fairytale language, characters and settings, creating retells and setting descriptions. Across their writing, children will develop their use of adjectives and verbs, practise adding -er and -est, join ideas using and, and use punctuation such as full stops, question marks and exclamation marks correctly.



English - Phonics and Spelling

We have a daily focus on Phonics and spelling, a really important part of your child's learning. Weekly spelling words will be set as homework and tested on Fridays.

English - Reading

Reading plays a crucial role in your child's learning, and we hold guided reading sessions three times a week in class, in addition to 1:1 reading. It becomes very evident in children's writing when they read regularly. To support your child's progress, please encourage daily reading at home and record this in their reading record. Reading books must be brought into school every day.



Maths

In Year 1 for Maths over the Spring term, we will be covering:

- Place Value (within 20)
- Addition and Subtraction (within 20)
- Place Value (within 50)
- Measurement – Length and Height – Mass and Volume





Science

This term, we will be covering:

Seasonal Change - Winter

As a class, we will observe the changes that occur in winter and identify key features of the season.

Everyday Materials

We will explore a range of everyday materials and objects, learning about their properties and why different materials are used for different purposes



Geography (Spring 1)

My World and Me

In this topic, children will develop their geographical knowledge by exploring places around the world. They will locate the UK, the equator and the poles on a world map, compare the UK and Ecuador, and learn about different climates, land features and capital cities. Children will also identify physical and human features, explore where animals live, and create their own maps using a simple key.



History (Spring 2)

Intrepid Explorers

This term, Year 1 will learn about famous explorers from different periods in history. They will find out who Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong were, what they were trying to achieve, and why they are remembered today. Children will explore key events from their journeys, consider the impact of their discoveries on the world, and begin to understand chronology by comparing the lives and achievements of these two explorers.

Religious Education

Branch 3 - Galilee to Jerusalem

This term, children will learn about key moments from Jesus' life as he travels from Galilee to Jerusalem. Through stories from the Gospel of Luke, they will explore how people met Jesus, why he is special to Christians, and how his message of love and kindness is shared today.



PHSE/RSE

Keeping Well and Clean & The

Environment

This term, children will learn about staying healthy through good hygiene, healthy eating and physical activity. They will explore ways to care for themselves, build positive relationships and keep safe through the Ten Ten programme. Children will also learn about being responsible citizens and how they can help care for the environment at home and at school.



Computing

Throughout this term, we will explore **programming** by identifying algorithms, decomposition and debugging through unplugged, hands-on activities.

We will also develop skills in **creating digital media**, learning how to take and edit photos and add images to projects. In addition, Year 1 will be learning about **online safety**, focusing on how to use technology safely and responsibly.

PE

Gymnastics and Dance

The children will be developing gymnastic skills, including sequences with increasing control and developing core strength. They will explore different equipment and select for a particular activity. In dance the children will begin to understand different choreographed devices such as mirroring, cannon, unison and to create simple dance motifs.

Our PE day this term is Thursday!



Music

Exploring Pitch

Creating Music

Home Learning

Home learning is set weekly on a **Friday** and should be returned to school by **Wednesday**.

Tasks include carefully planned activities linked to our class learning, designed to help children practise and build confidence in key skills taught in class. Daily reading and spelling practise is also strongly encouraged, as it makes a real difference to children's progress.



Important Dates

10th and 11th February - Parents evening

Our School Behaviour Policy

St. Mary's is committed to fostering calm, constructive, and positive learning environments across the school. Below is a reminder of our school-wide behaviour policy.

St. Mary's Values- these are the values that underpin all areas of our school community:

**Kindness
Respect
Tolerance**

**Honesty
Responsibility
Cooperation**

The School Values are based on the Gospel of Matthew 7:12

'Treat others like you want them to treat you'

Expected Behaviour (Green)	Rewards (Green)
Respectful	Verbal Praise Dojo Point House Points Golden Tickets Star of the week Star of the Term
Tolerant	
Kind	
Cooperating	
Responsible	
Honest	

Repetition of minor incidents Disobedience/disrespect Hurting Others Swearing / Insults Dangerous behaviour Damaging school property Physical contact with another child (low level- pushing, barging past) Disregard of school rules	Restorative Justice- make amends Recorded on CPOMs Parents notified by Class Teacher/SLT Lunchtime Reflection Time
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Repetition of minor incidents Racist behaviour Inappropriate spoken, written, or digital forms of communicating Threatening or abusive Behaviour or Language Physical violence resulting in injury Bullying	Parents notified by Behaviour Lead /Senior Leadership Team Recorded on CPOMs Internal Exclusion determined by a member of the Senior Leadership Team - number of days reflects the severity of the incident. Two Internal Exclusions in a period of half a term will result in a third being held at our partner school St. Charles.
Exiting school without permission Stealing Serious damage to school property Continuation of behaviour on return from an exclusion	Fixed Term Exclusion – dependent on severity of incident Permanent Exclusion - dependent on severity of incident. (This decision is at the discretion of the Executive HeadTeacher).