



Welcome to Year 1

A warm welcome to Year 1! It has been so lovely to welcome the children back to school. They have returned with huge smiles and heaps of enthusiasm, and we are extremely pleased with how well they are settling into their new routines.

Newsletters are sent each term and will detail what we intend to focus on in class, what you can do to help at home and important dates for your diary. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you need to know.

Phonics

The children will continue to access phonics each day using the 'Rocket Phonics scheme'. Rocket Phonics is a story based systematic, synthetic phonics programme designed to ensure all pupils achieve reading, writing and spelling success.

In Year 1, the children will access a dedicated, focused phonics session each day focusing on both blending (reading) skills and segmenting (spelling) skills. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to practice and apply their knowledge, as well as enrichment activities and consolidation.

To begin we will conduct a baseline assessment; we will then revisit many of the grapheme phoneme correspondences previously learned in Reception before progressing on to the Year 1 curriculum.

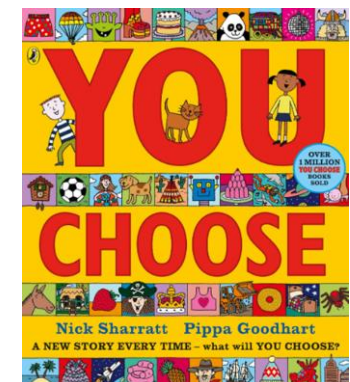
In addition to the formal teaching of phonics, we will teach the common exception words enabling the children to develop their fluency when reading and writing.

Phonics

English

The books we will focus on this half term are **Here We Are** by **Oliver Jeffers**, and **You Choose** by **Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart**. We will use these to develop our knowledge of sentence structure.

We will also be focusing on the change in each season, in particular Autumn/Winter, which will be a fantastic stimulus to create an information text and poetry.



Reading

To complement the Rocket Phonics Programme, we will continue to use the Rising Stars reading scheme. The Rising Stars scheme is affiliated with Rocket Phonics and incorporates two types of books:

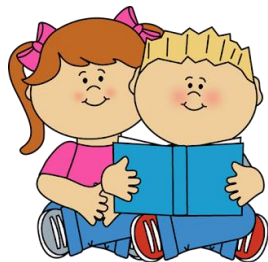
Target Practise Readers:

The Target Practise Readers focus on small groups of target letter sounds. These books are fully decodable and fully aligned with the programme. These books will remain in school and will be used for whole-class reading, guided reading or 1:1 reading. In year 1, your child will take part in a guided reading session with an adult twice a week, though there will also be opportunities to read individually with an adult on a regular basis.

Rocket Phonics Readers

The Rocket Phonics range of reading books complement the programme as additional decodable reading practice books. The children will bring these books home to practise reading independently, and they will be closely matched to their current reading development. This year, we will change the children's books every **Tuesday**. On this day, staff will retrieve the returned books, help children select new books and update individual reading records.

We would encourage you to read with your children at least three times per week and record this in their reading records. Children are rewarded for regular home reading, and this is usually a great motivator. Once a child has read three times at home, a sticker is placed on a chart in their reading record. Once they have received ten stickers, they are able to choose a special prize from our prize box!



Handwriting.

Regular handwriting sessions will take place in year 1. The focus is to teach children how to form each letter of the alphabet correctly, consistently and easily. Please encourage your children to use these formations when writing at home.



Spellings

In the coming weeks, we will send home weekly spellings. This will give the children the opportunity to practise the phonics patterns they have learned during phonics sessions and also to learn a number of common exception words and key vocabulary.

We will then have a regular check-in with the children to note any areas of strength and to identify spelling patterns that may need more practice. Please help your child to practise at home.



Maths

Our maths work will remain very practical and interactive this term. To begin, we will spend time securing our understanding of place value to 10, before moving on to adding and subtracting within 10 and understanding teen numbers.

Daily maths sessions will focus on these strands, and we will work in small steps. Small group activities will give the children the opportunity to consolidate their learning, as will many interactive activities in our classroom, which the children can access independently.



Science

This term, we will focus on the human body, learn the names and functions of our body parts and think about how our bodies change as we grow. We will also learn the five senses and conduct experiments to test these.

After half term, we will learn about seasonal change, in particular, the changes across the four seasons and the weather associated with each of the seasons.

Geography

In Geography, our initial focus will be the United Kingdom and its four constituent countries. The children will be given an opportunity to recognise and locate each of the four countries and to learn about their particular traditions and customs.



History

This half term we will consider how toys have changed over time. We will explore toys from the 1890s to the 1990s, compare and order a variety of toys and look for clues that help us identify the age of the toys. We will continue to refer to timelines, and we will identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.



P.E.

P.E. will take place on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. The children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days and they will stay in their PE kit for the entire day. Please make sure this is the PE kit as detailed in the school newsletter.

PE will be taught by Mrs Smith on a Tuesday afternoon and Mrs Lawrenson on a Thursday afternoon. During PE lessons, we will use our indoor and outdoor space to develop skills in balancing, travelling and team games.

Christian Values

Our Christian Values this term are: **Love & Forgiveness**. The children will be talking about these values in class worship and we will all aim to demonstrate these values within our school setting.



Music

Mrs Booth will teach Music each Thursday afternoon in the first half term. During Music lessons, the children will study different styles of music, rhythm and composition.



RE

During RE lessons, the children will learn about what it means to belong to a community, including a religious community. They will learn what they might see in a religious building and what people do when they go there. They will begin to understand that there are similarities and differences between places of worship, within and between faith communities. Additionally, they will learn places of worship are sacred places for the people who go there.

Later in the term we will consider the meaning of incarnation and the Christian belief that Jesus is God in the flesh, and he came to live amongst humans.



Art

During Art lessons, the children will closely observe the features of their face, including the shape and the position of each facial feature. They will then create a self-portrait; using pencil.

After half term, the children will identify the primary colours, learn how to mix secondary colours and focus on key skills such as collage and printing.



PSHE/Global Learning

Mrs Booth will teach our PSHE lessons after half term on a Thursday afternoon. During these lessons, we will think about our identity and what makes us special and unique.

After this, we will learn about how to keep ourselves safe and the people who can help keep us safe.

We will also regularly revisit our Global Learning through the Global Goals.



Homework

We ask that the children read at least three times weekly or, if possible, a little bit each day. They should keep a record of this in their reading records.

Later in the term, spellings will be sent out and they will be tested each week.

Computing

Ms Smith will teach the weekly Computing sessions, during which the children will learn basic computing skills before eventually moving on to recording with sound and pictures.

