



Year 1 Curriculum Letter – Autumn 2023



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to Year 1! We are delighted to have the children back in school and are very much looking forward to working with them over the course of this academic year. The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed about the learning the children will be doing during the Autumn Term.

Thematic Curriculum:

Our new Theme is 'School Days'. This is an extremely exciting theme, which allows the children to learn about the key differences between schools in the past and school today. Throughout the theme, the children will learn what school was like in Victorian times as well as the key physical and human features of the school and its environment. Alongside the core knowledge of the theme, the children will also have the opportunity to engage in 'memorable experiences' such as meeting members of the school community to talk about school life in the past and visiting the school kitchen to see what happens 'behind the scenes'. There will be many opportunities for children to display their artistic talents and flair for drama within this theme as well. Another memorable part of this theme will be the development of the children's Design and Technology skills when they create their very own 'healthy school dish!'



English



During this term, the children will be reading and writing across a range of different text types and genres. Within our main English lessons, the children will initially be focusing on the classic story of 'Dogger', which is always a favourite for the Year 1 children. This will give the children opportunities to write sentences about the book as well as to practise their accurate use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. The children will also explore further narrative texts such as 'Hair Love' by Matthew Cherry as well as 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. Linking closely with our Autumn Theme 'School Days', the children will also be studying a non-fiction information text so they can write simple information sentences. Later in the term, the children will have the opportunity to study Poetry by enjoying the classic poem 'Zim Zam Zoom' in which they have opportunities to perform the poem as well as create a 'new rhyme' based on the structure read.

Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

We will be continuing to support the children's early English development using the Read, Write, Inc. phonics scheme, which will be taught daily. This is an immersive approach and the children will be grouped across the key stage according to their current phonic ability. As well as bringing home a reading book, the children will also receive a Read, Write, Inc. storybook, which supports the phonic sounds they are learning in school.

The children will also have weekly reading slots within school through the Daily Supported Reading (DSR) programme. We strongly encourage the children to read their banded reading books as much as possible.

Mathematics

During this term, the children will be practicing their counting skills to 10, number bonds to ten and twenty and working on basic addition and subtraction calculations to 20. We will also be solving problems and puzzles, which involve the children understanding the numbers given and solving it using either the addition or subtraction operation. As always, our mathematical problems and puzzles will be presented in a lively, fun and engaging way so our Year 1 children continue to learn through a 'playful' investigative way within the classroom.



We will be ensuring to cover any 'gaps in learning' from Reception as well as ensuring that the children are 'challenged and stretched' as appropriate.

Science



The children will be focusing on two brand new Science units this term: 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and toes' and 'Weather Watchers'. Within the first half term, the children will be naming, labelling and drawing the basic parts of the human body as well as learning which part of the body is associated with each sense. As usual, there will be numerous opportunities for the children to take part in practical science investigations. Following 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes', the children will study 'Weather Watchers' which focuses on

observing changes across the four seasons and which weather types are associated with each. Again, we will be carrying out scientific investigations with the children so they see this in action!

Physical Education – PE

This term, activities will include gymnastics and ball skills, which will take place on **Mondays and Thursdays**. As a school, we have made the decision that in order to maximise learning time, children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Please ensure children are wearing correct PE kit (navy/black jogging bottoms or shorts, plain white t-shirt and school jumper). Children will need to remove their earrings and have long hair tied back.



Religious Education – RE

Within Religious Education, the children will be exploring the following key question over the course of the term:

- 'Who is a Christian and what do they believe?'

The children will be learning about the Christian creation story and then learning about the story of Christmas.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)



This term, our Jigsaw unit is called 'Being me in my world', the children will think about what it means to be part of the school and Wren class. They will consider how to create a safe classroom environment and recognise how it feels to be proud when they achieve something.

Home Learning

We expect the children to read their banded reading book at least **3 times a week** and record this in their reading diaries. This will be monitored on a weekly basis so the children can earn reading rewards and stickers. Please also support your child in reading the High Frequency Words in their word purse.



In conjunction with the 50 Things to do before you are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by the National Trust, children have the opportunity to complete activities as part of the **Inspire Challenge Awards**. Once children complete a challenge, children will receive a sticker with the specific logo of the challenge to collect in their booklet. At the end of the year, if all challenges have been completed, children will receive their year group specific badge at a special award ceremony.

As always, many thanks for your continued support. We are very excited about the learning journey ahead. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

Mrs Adcock and Mrs Smith

Year 1 team