'Let your light shine'

Matthew 5.16

Key dates

Harvest festival: Thursday 9th October

School trip: Tuesday 21st October

Class 1 Reception and Year 1 (Autumn 1) Curriculum Newsletter

Communication and Language (YR)

This first term we will be focussing on how to speak to others and how to listen to others talk for short periods of time. We will make friendships, developing social conversation and looking at talk routines through the day such as a morning greeting, choosing lunches etc.
We will also develop a deeper understanding of rhyme and alliteration through songs, stories and poetry.
The children will be developing their listening skills listening to a variety of stories and will begin to discuss these stories, developing their vocabulary and comprehension.

Physical Development

Please send your child into school wearing their PE kits on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please can children also leave a pair of wellies at school for the outdoor mud kitchen area.
In PE the children will explore the fundamental skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. They will be taught how to move and travel around the hall safely, about the importance of exercise, and how their bodies change when exercising. We will also explore similar concepts in our outdoor area through play.
Reception children will develop their fine motor skills through mark making, using tweezers and threading, as well as using tools such as scissors safely, using the correct grip.
Year 1 will continue to develop their handwriting skills and will be introduced to pre-cursive letters.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development and PSHCE

Reception children will focus on developing and building new relationships with staff and children and settling into the rules and routines of school. We will be developing our independence in putting coats and wellies on as well as removing and putting on jumpers and cardigans.

Year 1 will be learning about internet safety as well as exploring emotions in their focussed PSHCE sessions.

Mathematics

Reception will start the year by matching objects and pictures, sorting objects and pictures in a variety of ways, and comparing objects using appropriate vocabulary. We will also begin to explore numbers up to 5; recognising, counting and representing them in a variety of ways. We will find one more and one less and start to look at the composition of the numbers (e.g. 4 is one and three more, or 2 and 2 more etc).

Year 1 start the term by exploring place value within 10. this unit involves securing counting skills, exploring the number line and recognising numbers as words. The children will also solve mathematical problems involving more than, less than and equal to. We will then move onto exploring 2D and 3D shapes - recognising, naming and use mathematical vocabulary to describe them.

Literacy

Reception this half term we will be focussing on developing and applying their phonic knowledge using the RWI phonics scheme. We will be learning the individual letter sounds and will begin to put these together to read and write simple words. In writing Reception will start by listening for and writing the initial sound in a word to write labels and lists.

Year 1 will continue to develop their RWI phonics by learning set 3 sounds and new red words. Our writing focus will be embedding our understanding of what a sentence is, developing presentation and consistency in punctuation. The children will be writing for a variety of purposes and will explore new vocabulary that will help to create interesting pieces of writing.

Understanding the world, Science and History

Our topic this half term is 'All about me!' Within this we will explore ourselves, senses and features of our bodies. We will learn and label the key body parts and will investigate their functions. We will start to develop our scientific skills of measuring and recording information with the Year 1 children while Reception will start to develop some scientific vocabulary as we discuss what they find. In History, we will continue to look at ourselves – exploring how we have changed since we were a baby with Reception and ordering milestones in our lives with Year 1.

Expressive Arts and Design and Music

This half term we are creating self-portraits inspired by the famous Artist Vincent Van Gogh. We will develop skills in line drawing and will explore shape and proportions. We will also be learning about the primary colours and secondary colours - exploring how to make secondary colours practically with paints.

In music the children will be exploring pulse and rhythm, and they will sing and perform songs with actions.

RE

Our RE topic this half term is 'Who is Jewish and How do they live?' Firstly, the children will explore what the word special means and will identify their own special objects. They will then explore some of the special objects that are found in Jewish homes e.g. a Mezuzah. They will begin to learn about the Jewish belief in God as expressed in the Shema, a special Jewish prayer. They will also find out about the Jewish Festivals of Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur which are both celebrated at a similar time in the Autumn.

Class 1

Ways to help your child at home

We welcome and encourage children to continue their learning beyond school and share their achievements with us. We have consciously decided not to publish or set homework sheets, however we would like all children to complete these key weekly tasks and activities.

Phonics

Phonics underpins all of their learning in reading and writing and it is vital that children practise regularly. We will be sending home a copy of the sounds that they are learning and a card with some ideas of activities and games you can play with them to help develop their phonic knowledge and skills.

Daily Reading

Developing a love or reading and learning to read are directly linked to children's success at school and beyond. Reading daily to your child is the single most important thing you can do to help them with their learning. At this stage the children will not have their own books to read, but this love of reading can be fostered just by an adult sharing regular stories at home.

1 Minute Maths

This is a fantastic app, (particularly suited to Year R-3) which helps children to build number confidence and fluency through 1-minute tasks. The app gives instant feedback, with a 'hints' button which rephrases the question if children need a little extra support.

KIRFs

Key Instant Recall Facts

KIRF practise will help your child to learn by heart, key facts and information which they need to have instant recall of. KIRFs are designed to support the development of mental maths skills that underpin much of the maths work in our school. Your child's KIRFs for this half term can be found below.

Key Instant Recall Facts – Reception, Autumn 1

I can say the numbers from 0 to 5 and back from 5 to 0 in order

By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. The aim is for them to recall these facts instantly.

To recall and recognise in order:

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

And back again:

5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0

Top Tips

The secret to success is practising little and often. Use time wisely. Can you practise these KIRFs while walking to school or during a car journey? You do not need to practise them all at once; perhaps you could have a fact of the day. If you would like more ideas, please speak to your child's teacher.

Use practical resources -

- Spot numbers in the environment around them: on phones, clocks, microwaves, registration plates, doors etc
- Count out 5 toys and count back as you put them away.
- Make biscuits and decorate them counting out 5 decorations.
- Sing counting songs
- Model making mistakes and seeing if they can spot them, or starting counting and seeing if they can continue.

Key Instant Recall Facts – Year 1, Autumn 1

I can find one more and one less than a given number

By the end of the half term, the children should be able to quickly and easily say one more and one less than a given number without having to use objects to support them.

e.g.

one more than 5 is 6

one less than 10 is 9

Top tips

- Start by practicing this with objects or fingers – it is important that children understand the relationship between one more and addition, and one less and subtraction.

- Practice little and often. you could practise on the walk to school, while in the car, while walking upstairs to bed.

Understanding The World, Science and History

All about me

Senses/ Hear/hearing/ See/seeing/ Touch / touching/ Taste/tasting/ Body parts/ Mouth/ Head/ Body/ Neck/ Arms/ Eyebrows/ Eyelashes/ Legs/ Elbows/ Knees/ Face/ Eyes/ Ears/ Teeth/

Yesterday, today, tomorrow, past, present, future, now, was, were, day, week, month, year, A long time ago…, long ago, parent, grandparent, Who…?, What…?, remember, First. Next, Then, After that, old, new
events Decade, century, timeline, order, similar, same, different, important, memory, opinion, fact, important, importance, recount, history, oldest, newest, period, generation

Key Vocabulary

Autumn 1 2025

Expressive Arts and Design and Music

Portrait, observational, sketching, pencil, proportions, control, line, shade, features, Vincent Van Gogh Primary colours, secondary colours, mixing, landscape, portrait, colour wheel, warm colours, cold colours

Religion Education

Vocab: Jewish, Judaism, Special, Mezuzah, Shema, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah