'Let your light shine'

Matthew 5.16

Class 1 (Autumn 2) Curriculum Newsletter 2025

Communication and Language (Yr R)
This half term we will be reading stories with repeated phrases and actions. Through story, we will develop understanding of who, where and when questions and begin to understand how and why questions. In the classroom we will focus on following instructions with more than one step, and we will focus on learning and using new vocabulary throughout the day.
We will also be learning new songs and developing confidence in talking in front of an audience (Nativity here we come!)

Physical Development
This half term we will be completing a unit on gymnastics – learning how to move around the space freely, control our bodies and develop balance, and work with a partner to develop skills.
Our fine motor focus this half term will be to develop pencil control and to cut along straight and zig zag lines accurately with scissors. Year 1 will continue to cut accurately around shapes.
We will also be further developing our pencil grip and control when forming letters correctly. Year 1 will be continuing to develop their letter formation and sitting letters accurately on the line.
Children can come to school wearing PE kits on **Tuesdays and Fridays.**

Personal, Social and Emotional Development and PSHCE

With Reception, our main focus will be to begin to show and consider the feelings of others. We will be working on taking turns and waiting patiently and will continue to work on developing independence in areas such as zipping up coats, putting on and taking off jumpers, and food and hygiene. We will discuss healthy foods and begin to look at oral hygiene.

Our unit in Year 1 will focus on the ideas of identity and society. The children will explore and celebrate differences.

Mathematics

Reception will be exploring numbers up to 5 – counting, recognising, representing in different ways, finding one more and one less and exploring the composition of the numbers (e.g. 1 and 4 is 5, 2 and 3 is also 5). Reception will identify and name 2D shapes and use them to make pictures and patterns.
Year 1 will develop their skills in addition and subtraction, investigating the use of part whole models and getting to grips with fact families. They will also begin to explore mass and volume.
Throughout all units the Year 1 children will have a big focus on problem solving and reasoning, with a focus on the correct use of mathematical vocabulary to help them develop their ideas.

Literacy

In RWI, Reception, we will be continuing to learn, and review Set 1 sounds. We will have a larger focus on using these sounds to begin to read and write words. Through our literacy sessions Reception will explore bonfire poetry, write labels and lists, and explore new stories. The children will be focussing on hearing sounds that they have learnt within words and writing the sounds that thy can hear in order.

Year 1 will develop their use of descriptive language to describe characters and settings. We will also be exploring different purposes for writing including diary entries and letters. The children will develop their sentence structure by adding 'and' into sentences and will begin using capital letters and full stops accurately.

Understanding the world, Science and Geography

Our topic this half term is 'Let's Celebrate' as we will be learning about lots of different celebrations and festivals. We will discover the origins of Bonfire Night, find about Remembrance Day and, of course, learn all about Christmas. For all of these festivals, we will learn about how and where they are celebrated.

The Natural World/ Science
This half term we will be learning all about animals. We will identify a variety of animals and explore the similarities and differences between them looking at their features and structures. We will classify them into mammals, reptiles, fish, birds etc, and we will also

We will have a focus on spelling common exception words accurately within our work.

explore what they eat classifying them into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

People, Cultures and Community/ Geography

We will be finding out all about Leeds! We will be locating it on a map, identifying key landmarks, and creating our own maps using symbols and a key. Finally we will be comparing Leeds to Thorp arch, looking for similarities and differences.

Expressive Arts and Design and Design Technology

This half term we will be learning lots of new songs and performing on a stage for our Nativity.

We will also be exploring a variety of different media to create pictures and models. In Design Technology the children will be exploring using different joins to join materials together. We will also be looking at sliders and leavers and design a moving picture. The children will use paints, chalks and pastels to create fireworks pictures. The collage technique will be used to create a poppy. Of course, we will also be doing lots of Christmas crafting and even some baking!

RE

Our unit this half term is 'Why does Christmas matter for Christians.' After thinking about why/if Christmas is special to us, we will be beginning to think about why Christmas is an important time for Christians. We will think about Jesus as a special baby (God made human) and retell the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke in words and pictures. We will look at secular and non-secular Christmas cards and a representative from Church will come and talk to us about the signs of Christmas that can be seen in Churches. We will look at some Christmas traditions: advent calendar, candle, crib scene and wreath and make some thank you paper chains.

Christmas crafts morning

Towards the end of this half term, we will be holding our first stay and play session. The theme will be 'Christmas crafts' and it will be a lovely opportunity for parents, carers, grandparents or other family member to come and spend time in our classroom. We do ask that we stick to just one adult per child, otherwise the classroom becomes very crowded. **Monday 15th December 2:15.**

Mystery reader

If you are available to read class 1 a story on a Thursday afternoon at 3:00 as a mystery reader, please volunteer. Just let us know your availability. It's a lovely way to encourage children to enjoy listening to stories. Last year it was successful with mums, dads and grandparents joining us and even dressing up!

Tapestry

Please continue sharing your children's wonderful proud cloud moments with us.

If you need any help accessing Tapestry, please come and speak to either Mrs Bell or Mrs Hardcastle.

Names

Please ensure all clothing items are named we have several nameless cardigans and jumpers. Also check you have the correct items at home.

Reading books and Library books

Rember to record all reading into reading logs as the schools reading challenge has started. Library books will be changed every **Friday.**

Class 1

Ways to help your child at home

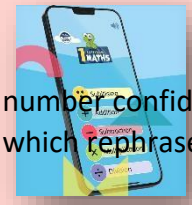
We welcome and encourage children to continue their learning beyond school and share their achievements with us. We have consciously decided not to publish or set homework sheets, however we would like all children to complete these key weekly tasks and activities.

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.

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 2

I can say the numbers from 0 to 10 and back from 10 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, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

And back again:

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 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 -

- Number treasure hunt around the house or in the garden.
- Play hopscotch and count as you jump forward.
- Thread pasta; count to 10 as you thread them on and count back as you take them off.

Year 1 Autumn 2 KIRF

Number bonds for each number to 6

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

0 + 1 = 1	0 + 4 = 4	0 + 6 = 6
1 + 0 = 1	1 + 3 = 4	1 + 5 = 6
	2 + 2 = 4	2 + 4 = 6
0 + 2 = 2	3 + 1 = 4	3 + 3 = 6
1 + 1 = 2	4 + 0 = 4	4 + 2 = 6
2 + 0 = 2		5 + 1 = 6
	0 + 5 = 5	6 + 0 = 6
0 + 3 = 3	1 + 4 = 5	
1 + 2 = 3	2 + 3 = 5	
2 + 1 = 3	3 + 2 = 5	
3 + 0 = 3	4 + 1 = 5	
	5 + 0 = 5	

Key Vocabulary

What is 3 **add** 2?

What is 2 **plus** 2?

What is 5 **take away** 2?

What is 1 **less than** 4?

They should be able to answer these questions in any order, including missing number questions e.g. 3 + ◯ = 5 or 4 – ◯ = 2.

Top Tips

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Use practical resources – Your child has one potato on their plate and you give them three more. Can they predict how many they will have now?

Make a poster – We use Numicon at school. You can find pictures of the Numicon shapes here: bit.ly/NumiconPictures – your child could make a poster showing the different ways of making 5.

Play games – You can work on number facts using sumdog. www.sumdog.com

UTW

Names of common animals – fish, birds, mammals, reptiles etc./ Meat-eaters/ Plant feeders/ Habitat/ Wild animals/ Pets/ Teeth/ Wing/ Claw/ Tail/ Beak/ Fur/ Feather/ Fin/ Scales/ United Kingdon, UK, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, London, Capital City, Leeds, Yorkshire, county, River Aire.

Autumn 2 vocabulary

Expressive Arts and Design technology

thick, thin, soft, hard, pattern, colours, light, dark,

pencil, chalk, pastel, mould, shape, decorate, sing,

loud, quiet, perform, act, joins flange,
tab, tie, sew, L brace, slot, spilt pin,
leavers, sliders

Religion Education

God, Jesus, Christmas, Nativity Play, Advent, Angel Gabriel, Bethlehem, Festival, Precious. Gift, church, Christians, Gospel, advent