'Let your light shine'

Matthew 5.16

Class 1 (Summer 1) Curriculum Newsletter

Our topic This half term our topic is 'Pirates'

Physical Development

This half term we will be completing a unit on dance. We will also learn about the importance of exercise, and how their bodies change when exercising. We will explore similar concepts in our outdoor area through play. We will develop our fine motor skills through mark making, using tweezers, scissors and threading and we develop our pencil skills and use tools such as scissors, safely cutting around shapes and using the correct grip. We will have a big focus on handwriting with both year groups this half term, working on correct letter formation as well as controlling the size and consistency of our writing.

Expressive Art and Design, and Music

This term, children will explore 3D sculpture inspired by the artist Henry Moore. They will create clay animals and imaginative clay aliens, developing their ability to shape and form using different techniques. Pupils will learn how to roll, pinch and join clay to build simple structures, including hollow forms such as pinch pots. Children will also be encouraged to express their own ideas and experiences through their artwork.

In music, the children will be identifying and describing pitch. They will play simple listening games and identify simple pitch patterns in a range of songs and music, recognising when the pitch gets higher or lower. They will use a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments and compose simple sound effects to accompany sections of a story. They will prepare a song to sing to you for their class worship!

PSED and PSHCE

Children will learn to recognise and name a range of feelings, understanding that people may feel differently in the same situation. They will explore how emotions feel in the body and begin to develop simple strategies to manage them, including knowing when to ask for help. Pupils will also learn about change and loss, discussing how these experiences can make people feel and how to support themselves and others. The mind mate unit focuses on helping children talk about their feelings and build emotional vocabulary. Pupils will learn that everyone experiences different emotions and that this is normal. They will begin to develop strategies to manage their feelings and reflect on their own strengths, including recognising what they are good at and how feelings can affect their bodies.

Mathematics

In Reception maths we will be developing our knowledge and understanding of numbers up to 20, counting forwards and backwards, and putting them into order. We will also revise number bonds. The children will explore and make numbers above ten using tens and ones, and will investigate the value of numbers using practical apparatus. We will continue to develop our adding and subtracting skills in practical fun ways.

In Year 1 we start the term with a unit on multiplication and division, focussing on counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s. We will then move on to look at fractions, exploring half and quarter of shapes and numbers. In our review work we will continue to embed our quick recall knowledge of number bonds to both 10 and 20, and we will also focus on recalling our months of the year and days of the week.

Literacy

Over this half term we will be exploring some narrative texts focussed on Pirates. We will write character and setting descriptions, create sections of our own narratives, and we will also create diary entries and letters. Towards the end of the half term we will also complete a unit on instructional writing with some of our writing linked to our pirate theme, and some linked to our science work on plants.

The focus for Reception is to develop the composition of our own sentences, spelling words phonetically and using finger spaces between words. We will start to apply our set 2 phonic knowledge to support our spellings and we will begin to use simple punctuation.

Year 1 will focus on creating interesting pieces of writing with longer, more complex sentences. Handwriting will be a big focus, as well as looking at different types of punctuation. We will explore the features of different genres of writing and use them in our own pieces. We will also look at spelling words with a range of suffixes and prefixes.

Understanding the world

History and Science

In Geography this half term we will be learning about continents and oceans. We will learn the names of the continents and oceans, compare them by size, explore the animals that live in different places and also how the climate is different around the words. We will also look at plastic pollution and in particular, how this has an impact on our oceans.

In science we will be exploring plants, looking at how they grow, what they need to grow, and what happens if they don't get those things.

RE

Based on the 'Understanding Christianity' framework. The children will learn that Christians believe that God is loving, kind and forgiving, often described as a caring father or king. This will be explored through bible stories such as Jonah and the whale and Jesus' teaching of the parable the lost son.

Important things to remember:

Reading books – Reading diaries need to be commented in regularly for books to be changed weekly on a Thursday. Please read a minium of 3 times weekly with comments in reading diary.

PE days – come to school wearing PE kit on **Mondays** and **Fridays**

Communication and Language

This term, children will continue developing their storytelling skills through both focused sessions and continuous provision. They will practise answering key questions such as who, what, where, when, why and how in response to stories and peer recounts. There will be a strong emphasis on speaking and listening, with children encouraged to stay on topic during conversations and use talk to organise, sequence and clarify their ideas, feelings and experiences.

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

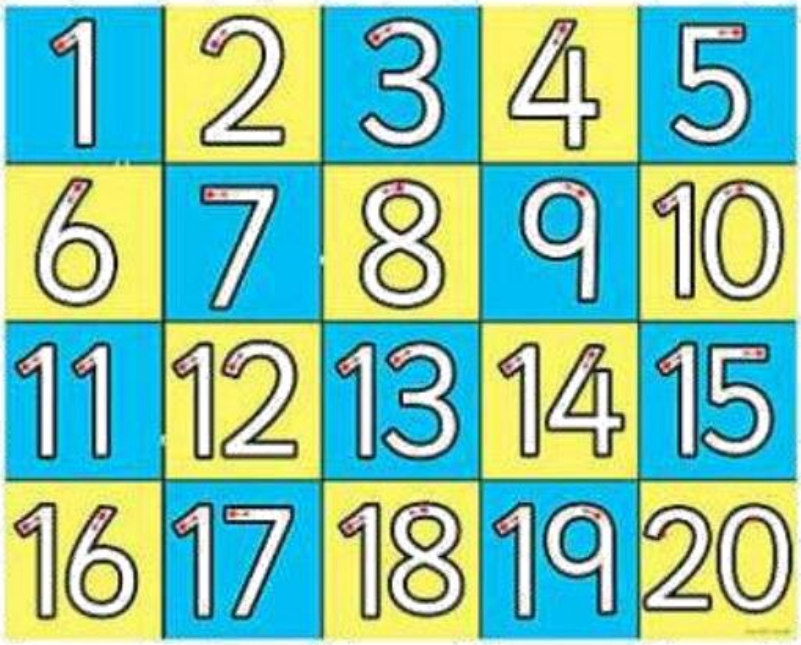
KIRF practise will help your child to learn by heart, key facts and information which they need to have instant recall of. KIRFs are designed to support the development of mental maths skills that underpin much of the maths work in our school. Your child's KIRFs for this half term can be found below.

Year 1 Summer 1 KIRF Numbers 1 to 20 in numerals and words
By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. The aim is for them to recall these facts instantly
11 = eleven
12 = twelve
13 = thirteen
14 = fourteen
15= fifteen
16=sixteen
17=seventeen
18=eighteen
19=nineteen
20=twenty
Game- Match numerals to words like pairs or dominoes cards.

Reception KIRFs Spring 1

I can count, read and write numbers to 20

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



Key Vocabulary

Eleven

Twelve

Thirteen

Fourteen

Fifteen

Sixteen

Seventeen

Eighteen

UTW
Continents and Oceans/plants

Continent: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, Antarctica, Ocean: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern, Environment, climate, temperature, polar, temperate, tropical, desert, rainforest, Wildlife, habitat, environment, adapted, suited, adaptation, Plastic pollution, impact, reduce, reuse, recycle.

Seed/ bulb/ bud/ growth/ grow/ habitat/ local environment/ leaf fall/ water/ light/ temperature/ healthy growth/ survive/ soil/ germinate/ stages of growth

Key Vocabulary

Summer 1 2026

Expressive Arts and Design

Art

- Sculpture
- Manipulate
- Shaping
- Slip
- Clay
- Score
- Slab

Music

- Pitch
- Higher
- Lower
- Melody
- scale

Religious Education

- Forgiving
- Prodigal
- Worship
- Nineveh
- loving ,
- Father ,
- Parable Jonah
- God
- Holy