



Curriculum Letter Year 1 – Spring Term 1 2024

General Information

A very warm welcome back to school! The children have already shown that they are raring to go with their new Spring learning. We would like to say a big thank you for all the lovely books that were donated as part of the '12 Books of Christmas'. We can't wait to start reading them over the coming weeks.

Curriculum

Maths: We start our learning in Spring looking at time. The children will learn to read, write and tell the time to o'clock and half past on an analogue clock. We then revisit addition and subtraction strategies within 20 before moving on to 2-digit numbers within 50 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

English: We are starting the term exploring texts linked to our foundation subjects, using these as stimulus for description and story writing, before we move on to non-fiction work. We will be starting with the beautiful story '*Leaf*' by Sandra Dieckmann and later participate in a story telling workshop based on the traditional African tale of Anansi the spider.

Science: This half term is all about 'Polar Places' to inspire us to continue our investigation of the properties of materials, before we examine a range of living things from the polar regions.

Geography: Our unit is 'People and their Communities'. We will be looking at different parts of the world to help us understand that people live in different environments. We will also compare a range of habitats from deserts to forests.

Art: We will be creating artwork using different materials including wool and weaving.

Music: We continue to use Charanga to listen and appraise, and find the rhythm and pulse, with our focus song being 'In The Groove'.

RE: We are looking at 'What life is like for a Jewish person' this half term. We are lucky enough to have arranged a visit to a local synagogue, where we will be shown around and see first-hand some Jewish traditions in practice.

PSHE: 'Economic Wellbeing' is the title of our PSHE unit. We will be discussing how to keep money safe, what to do if we find money and developing an understanding of how banks work.

Computing: Our computing this half term will see us becoming programmers! We will be using the Beebot robots to learn about algorithms and debugging. We will also look at the importance of keeping ourselves safe online.

Phonics: The children will continue to receive daily phonics sessions with a focus on the phase 5 sounds and applying them in both reading and spelling.

Class Reads: This half term and linking to our Geography topic, both classes are reading the brilliant book '*Too Small Tola*' by Atinuke



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PE Days

Outdoor PE sessions continue on **Wednesday** with our ELMs sport coaches. Our indoor PE sessions are **moving to a Friday afternoon** with a focus on gymnastic skills and developing balance. Kits for indoor PE should remain in school and will be sent home every half term for washing.

Reading and Spellings

Children will continue with their reading groups, reading with an adult in school at least twice a week. The groupings have recently been assessed, to ensure your child is reading a book best matched to their current level of confidence and fluency.

Reading aloud is so very important at home! We will continue to set Collins eBook copies of the books read at school, so children can show off their skills to you at home. If you feel that a book is too challenging or otherwise, please let us know via the reading diaries. Any feedback you give is checked regularly by the class teacher and much appreciated.

Sharing books will continue to be sent home on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. As children become more confident in their own reading skills, they may well start trying to read these themselves. This is fantastic, but the primary purpose of these books is to help foster a love of reading for pleasure and therefore sharing these books with your children in the role of a confident reader is so important 😊.

Please ensure the books are returned on the correct day as this will allow us sufficient time to change them and increase our selection of available books for the children to choose from.

Homework

Homework will be set every Friday on *Microsoft Teams* and is due in the following Wednesday. Children may also be set homework on MyMaths or Purple Mash, this will be indicated on the work set on *Teams*.

Key Dates

Visit to Oakwood Synagogue:	Date TBC
Anansi Storytelling Workshop	Tuesday 23 rd January
Half term:	12 th - 16 th February
INSET day:	Monday 19 th February
Start of Spring term 2:	Tuesday 20 th February