

Curriculum Letter for Year 1 – Summer Term 1 2026

General Information

It is lovely to be back together after the Easter holidays. Children have settled quickly back into our established routines in school life and are looking forward to a fun-packed final term in Year 1.

Please look at our new *Knowledge Organisers* on Teams and the school website. We use these with the children at the start of each lesson, to focus on specific areas of learning and vocabulary. We also look forward to a trip to Forty Hall, as part of our science work.

Curriculum

Maths: We will start the half term looking at numbers from 50 to 100 and beyond. This will involve lots of work on place value and recognising tens and ones. We then move on to addition and subtraction within 50 before finishing the half term looking at money.

English: We have started our half-term looking at *The King of Tiny Things by Jeanne Willis*. This will be used as a platform for our work on character and setting creation, sequencing ideas and creating our own versions of a story. We will then use *My Butterfly Bouquet* as a basis for our non-fiction work on the life cycle of a butterfly. To finish, we will use the fabulous *Beegu by Alexis Deacon* to, amongst other things, apply our phonics knowledge and skills to decode alien words!

Geography: This half term our unit is called '*Animals and their Habitats*'. The children will be exploring the continents and the animals that inhabit them. It will be linked to learning about the Equator and the North and South poles, thinking about the temperatures at the poles compared to the Equator. There will be opportunities to develop their map skills through locating and naming the seven continents, five oceans, Equator and North and South poles.

Science: Our new Science unit is '*On Safari*'. We will be looking at classifying animals as vertebrates and invertebrates, labelling parts of an insect, understanding an 'exoskeleton' and using our knowledge to inform our very own 'Bug Safari' at Forty Hall (more details to follow). We will also have our very own caterpillars in class as we continue our work on life cycles.

RE: This half term the children will explore Islam. We are lucky enough to start our unit with an expert special guest (Mrs Demirag!) and will use what we learned from her, to develop our understanding about the beliefs and practices of this religion.

Phonics: The children will continue to receive daily phonics sessions to consolidate prior learning in preparation for the Government Phonics Screening Check in Summer 2. A meeting about this will be held for parents with more details to follow. We will also be practising our decoding of 'alien words' to show how no word is out of reach once we have cracked the phonics code!

Music: We are starting our Charanga sessions this half term based on a song entitled 'Your Imagination'. We will also be learning how to play accompanying instruments.

Art: This half term the children will be exploring sculpture! We will build our skills across the term looking at how paper and card can be shaped and joined to make a sculpture linked to our science topic of minibeast.

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Class reads: 1B The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
1W Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

PE Days

Outdoor PE sessions will continue on **Tuesdays** with Coach Kymani and there will be a focus on ball skills. Please make sure your child is wearing the correct PE kit and trainers. Our indoor PE sessions are on a **Friday** afternoon. This half term we are looking at gesture and formation in dance using a range of body parts. Kits for indoor PE should remain in school and will be sent home at the end of term.

Reading and Spellings

The children are continuing to amaze us in school with their confidence and fluency with the books they then bring home to share. **Phonics reading books will continue to be set as eBooks this term** with an additional 'sharing book' sent home weekly to develop children's awareness of reading for pleasure. Reading aloud is so important and we very really appreciate your support in giving additional repeated practice opportunities at home. If you feel that a book is too challenging or otherwise, please let us know. Any feedback you give is much appreciated.

Sharing books will be sent home on a Friday and should be returned by the following **Wednesday**. Please ensure the books are returned on the correct day, as this will allow us sufficient time to change them and increase our section of available books for the children to choose.

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

Class Photograph	Monday 20 th April
PTA Disco	Friday 1 st May
Bank Holiday (school closed)	Monday 4 th May
Polling day (school closed)	Thursday 7 th May
Parent Meeting (phonics)	Date TBC
Trip to Forty Hall	Date TBC
Half Term	Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May