



## Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter- Summer 2 2026

Welcome to our newsletter.

This term the children will be looking at ***Light Up My World and The Dancing Spy*** in Learning Means the World!

Our timetable can be found on our Class Page of the website.

Year 1 have PE every **Tuesday**. Your child's PE kit should consist of white T-shirt, black shorts/joggers, school jumper and trainers or pumps.



### LEARNING MEANS THE WORLD – Light Up My World



“Light Up the World” is a thematic unit based around the sun and other sources of light, with a science focus. We will look at solar power and how to save electricity, as well as learning about sun safety and the importance of protecting both the skin and eyes. We will learn about how shadows are formed when solid objects block light. Nocturnal animals will also be introduced in the unit.

#### Concept Flow

- To recognise that we need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light
- To know, name and observe a variety of sources of light, including electric lights, flames and the sun
- To recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes
- To understand that the sun provides energy and that solar power is a sustainable energy source
- To be aware of simple ways to save electricity
- To know that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object
- To understand the term 'nocturnal' and learn about nocturnal animals

#### The Dancing Spy

Dancing Spy is a history-based theme, with a focus on the four competencies of courage, commitment, creativity and community, integrating the subjects of PSHE, drama, English, dance and geography. The story of Josephine Baker, a black American entertainer who fought hard against racism and segregation, is both inspiring and challenging.

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- To know and be able to retell the life story of Josephine Baker
- To know what Josephine Baker was famous for
- To understand the contribution Josephine Baker made to cross-cultural relationships
- To understand what makes Josephine Baker an inspirational historical figure
- To understand the importance of community, courage and commitment



#### English- Writing

In Year 1, we use Curious Quests to develop our children's writing skills. Curious Quests is an exciting approach to learning that builds on the creativity and imagination developed through Drawing Club (which the children do in Reception). It takes children on immersive adventures through stories, poetry, non-fiction and make-believe, helping them become confident readers, writers and storytellers.

#### Curious Quests supports children to:

- Develop confidence and enjoyment in writing
- Build a rich vocabulary and strong communication skills
- Apply their phonics knowledge in meaningful ways
- Learn grammar and punctuation through engaging experiences
- Use creativity, imagination and problem-solving skills
- Work collaboratively and share ideas with others.

## What does a lesson look like?

Children enjoy a mixture of:

- Story sharing and discussion
- Learning exciting new vocabulary
- Teacher modelling of reading, writing and drawing
- Practical, creative activities
- Small-group support and independent learning opportunities
- Time to explore ideas through play, drama, art and construction.

Curious Quests helps children see writing as an adventure rather than a task. It encourages them to think creatively, take risks with their ideas and develop a genuine love of language and storytelling. The approach aims to make learning joyful, memorable and meaningful, while building the skills children need to succeed as writers.

This half-term the children will be reading and taking inspiration from the book '*Toys In Space*' and '*Jack and the Baked Bean Stalk*'.



## English-Reading

All the children take a part in our daily Read, Write Inc. sessions. The lessons involve the teaching of a new sound, decoding, blending and writing words. The programme helps the children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling.

## Maths

We use White Rose Maths to plan and deliver the teaching of Maths. The children will be learning about **Money** and **Time**. Here are the small steps of learning:

Y1 WRM Small Steps Summer Block 5 - Money		Y1 WRM Small Steps Summer Block 6 - Time
Unitising		Before and after
Recognise coins		Days of the week
Recognise notes		Months of the year
Count in coins		Hours, minutes and seconds
		Tell the time to the hour
		Tell the time to the half hour

## RE- What makes a place sacred?

This term, we will be exploring how places of worship are similar or different. Also, how music can help believers worship and reflect on our worship in school. We will also look at special places of worship around our community and in our homes.

## Our Christian Value

This half term, we will be focusing on our school Christian value of **respect**. In whole school and class worship, we will explore the idea of respect through stories in the Bible.

On our class page of the school's website, there are some ideas and stories, exploring the value of community, for you to do with your children at home.

**“Do to others as you would have them do to you”**

Matthew 7.12

