

Year 1 Curriculum Overview – Spring Term 2026



St James's CofE
Primary School
Let Your Light Shine

Reading

In Year 1, children will read to an adult at school three times a week during our reading sessions. The book they read will be matched to our phonics lessons. Reading for pleasure is still a large part of life at St James's so children in Year 1 will be read a story every day by their class teacher. Children will have access to our school library so will choose a story of interest to bring home each Friday. This story is for an adult to read and for their child to enjoy. We want children in Year 1 to not only learn to read but to go on an adventure within every book.

Maths

In Maths this term we will be looking at the following units:

- Place Value within 20
- Addition and Subtraction within 20
- Place Value within 50
- Length and Height
- Mass and Volume

English

This term we will be focusing on *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Big Book of Why*. We will continue to write simple sentences and use the conjunction 'and'. Children will be learning how to write a letter, a character description and an explanation. During this term we will be learning more Year One spelling rules.

Children will continue to explore poetry too. In phonics, we are learning our new Phase 5 graphemes.

Physical Education

Dance

Children will be exploring story telling through dance. The music we will use is from the famous film 'The Jungle Book'. Children will be developing actions that express friendships.

Hit, Catch and Run

- *To be able to hit objects with our hand or bat.
- *To track and retrieve a rolling ball.
- *Throw and catch a variety of balls and objects.

Art and Design

Painting and Mixed Media: Colour Splash

Children will experiment with paint, using a wide variety of tools to apply paint to a range of surfaces, creating paintings inspired by Clarice Cliff and Jasper Johns. They will develop painting skills and learn to mix primary colours to make secondary colours. They will also mix different shades of a secondary colour. Children will apply paint to a printing material to create a print and use a range of colours when printing.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

(including Relationships Education)

Safety and the Changing Body:

We will learn how to respond to adults in different situations; distinguishing appropriate and inappropriate physical contact; understanding what to do if lost and how to call the emergency services; identifying hazards in the home and people in the community who keep us safe.

Citizenship:

We will learn about the importance of rules and consequences of not following them; caring for the needs of babies, young children and animals; exploring our similarities and differences and an introduction to democracy.

Science

Animals: Sensitive Bodies:

We will identify and name body parts, Pupils will conduct practical activities with the senses to spot patterns and answer questions.

Animals: Making Comparisons

Learning about animals, pupils will compare and group them by similarities and differences in characteristics, physical features and diets.

Computing

Skills Showcase: Rocket to the Moon

Can a computer help us build a rocket? Pupil will be developing keyboard and mouse skills through designing, building and testing individual rockets by creating a digital list of materials, using drawing software and recording data.

Programming 2: Bee-Bots

How can we tell a robot what to do? Pupils will be developing early programming skills using either the Bee:Bot or virtual Bee:Bot.

History

What was here before? How schools have changed?

- To understand that places change over time.
- To explain how the school has changed over time.
- To create questions for a historical enquiry.
- To know the difference between fact and opinion.

Design Technology

Structures: Constructing a Pencil Pot

Exploring how structures can be made more stable with a wide base and extra weight added to the base, the children will apply these skills in designing and making a stable pencil pot for a Year 1 pupil. They will research and create a design plan, which they will follow closely to make their structure.



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Religious Education

What do Christians believe God is like?

Identify what a parable is. Explain what the story means to Christians. Give examples of ways in which Christians show their belief in God.

Who is a Muslim and how do they live?

Identify some of the key Muslim beliefs about God found in the Shahadah and the 99 names of Allah.

Give examples of how stories about the Prophet Muhammad show what Muslims believe about Him.

Give examples of how Muslims put their beliefs about prayer into action.

Discuss and ask questions about Muslim beliefs and ways of living.

Music

Dynamics (Theme: Seaside)

Children make links between music, sounds and environments and use percussion, vocal and body sounds to represent the seaside.

Sound patterns (Theme: Fairytales) This new unit uses fairytales to introduce children to the concept of sound patterns (rhythms). They explore clapping along to repeated words and phrases, creating rhythmic patterns to tell a familiar fairytale.

Geography

What is the weather like in the UK?

- Name and locate the four countries on a map of the UK.
- Identify the country we live in.
- Identify the four seasons.
- Identify the four compass directions.
- Use the compass directions to describe the location of features.
- Observe and describe daily weather patterns.
- Begin to locate the four capital cities of the UK.
- Explain what the weather is like during each season in the UK.



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