



Year 1 Curriculum overview – Autumn Term 2026

English

Our English lessons this term is based on exploring the following books: *Where the Wild Things Are* – Maurice Sendak and *Owl Babies* – Martin Waddell. We will use inspiration from the stories to create pieces of writing to entertain, which will include creating simple sentences using capital letters and full stops. The children will also be introduced to using the conjunction 'and' within their writing. We will also be writing to inform by creating labels, captions and informative sentences which also links to our science topic on materials. In phonics we will revise Phase 3 and 4 during the first half term to consolidate prior learning and then move on to Phase 5 in October.

Maths

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

Unit 1: Place Value. Sort, count and represent objects. Count, read and write forwards/backwards from any number 0 to 10. Count one more/less. Compare groups using language such as equal/more than, more/greater, less/fewer. Introduce < > and = symbols. Compare numbers. Order numbers/groups of objects. Ordinal numbers. The number line.

Unit 2: Addition & Subtraction. Part whole model. Addition symbol. Fact families. Number bonds to 10. Addition adding together/more. Finding a part. Subtraction takeaway/how many left/crossing out. Subtraction symbol. Fact families. Subtraction counting back.

Unit 3: Shape. Recognise and name 2-D/3-D shapes. Sort 2-D/3-D shapes. Patterns within 3-D and 2-D shapes.

Unit 4: Place Value. Count forwards/backwards and write numbers to 20 in numerals and words. Numbers from 11-20. Tens and ones. Count one more/one less. Compare groups of objects. Compare numbers. Order groups of objects. Order numbers.

Reading

In Year 1, children will read to an adult at school three times a week during our reading sessions. Each session has a different focus; decoding, prosody and comprehension. Pupils also take part in whole class comprehension lessons - these are a great opportunity to challenge their comprehension knowledge. 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. 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.

History

Toys: Changes within living memory

- *To understand how toys have changed over time.
- *To interview family members to understand how toys have changed within living memory.
- *To understand the chronology of the teddy bear.
- *To understand the chronology of the Lego brick.

Physical Education

In Gymnastics lessons, children in Year 1 will learn how to use simple gymnastics actions and shapes. Apply basic strength to gymnastic actions. Begin to carry apparatus. Recognise like actions and link them.

During PE lesson, the children will be learning how to practice basic movements, including running, jumping, etc. and begin to engage in competitive activities. Experience opportunities to improve ABCs.

Art and Design

This term we will be exploring the three formal elements of art: shape, line and colour. Children will mix and paint with secondary colours, use circles to create abstract compositions and work collaboratively to create a class piece of art inspired by water.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (including Relationships Education)

My healthy self: How can we look after our emotions?

Recognising and naming a range of emotions, pupils learn to identify facial and body clues linked to feelings. They explore what helps them feel calm and happy, understand the importance of rest and enjoyable activities, and practise simple strategies for managing different emotions.

Connecting with others: How can I help myself and others feel happy and safe?

Identifying what makes them and others special, pupils learn how friends, family and classmates can help and support each other. They explore how respect is shown through behaviour in different situations and identify simple strategies for managing disagreements in families and friendships.



**St James's C of E
Primary School**

Let Your Light Shine

Design Technology

Mechanisms: Will your vehicle win the race?

Children will be investigating how wheels move and how to fix broken wheels. Children will be designing their very own vehicle.

Their vehicle will include wheels, axles and axle holders, which will allow the wheels to move. They will learn that a wheel will only move if it is attached to a rotating axle and that the frame of their vehicle needs to be balanced.

Computing

Getting started: how do we use computers?

Learning the basic skills i.e. logging on and learning to use and control the mouse. We will also look at Online safety.

Programming: Bee-Bots

Can we tell a robot what to do?

Science

Seasonal Changes

The children will observe seasonal changes throughout the year

Everyday Materials

We will be identifying a variety of materials. We will learn about the difference between the object and the material with which it is made. We will describe the properties

Geography

What is it like here?

The children will learn about aerial photographs specific to the local area. Children will find features of the playground. They will draw a design to improve three areas of the playground.



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Religious Education

Creation: Who made the world?

Children will retell the story of creation and recognise that is from the beginning of the Bible. We will discuss what the story tells Christians about God, Creation and the world. As a class we will think, talk and ask questions about living in an amazing world.

Incarnation: Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Children will give a clear, simple account of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important to Christians. We will explore how Christians use the story of the nativity and decide what they personally have to be thankful for at Christmas time.

Music

Pulse and Rhythm

Children to learn to find the pulse and rhythm using body parts and percussion instruments.

Tempo

Using the story the snail and the mouse children will learn about the tempo of music.