

Welcome to Year 1!

Spring Term 2026

Welcome back, I hope you've all had a lovely Christmas. We have lots of exciting things planned for the term ahead and I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am! This newsletter includes lots of useful information about the topics we are studying, our routines and some key days and dates.

Geography



'Can I be a weather presenter?'

In our Geography topic, we will be learning about the different countries that make up the United Kingdom and locating them on a map. We will also be naming capital cities for each of these countries and also naming and locating the seas around the UK. We will explore the different types of weather and daily and seasonal weather patterns whilst acting in role as a weather presenter to share our knowledge.

Year 1 Knowledge Mat Spring Term Can I be a weather presenter?

Subject Specific Vocabulary		Exciting Books
temperature	How hot or cold it is, measured in degrees.	
wind	Moving air in the atmosphere.	Important Places to know London Edinburgh Cardiff Belfast Greater Manchester Oldham Shaw High Crompton Manchester Liverpool The North West of England
United Kingdom	The countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	
fog	A type of low-lying cloud.	
rainfall	When water drops fall from clouds.	
snow	Soft, white bits of frozen water that falls in cold weather	
weather	The way the air and atmosphere feels.	Sticky Knowledge
hailstone	Small balls of ice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know where the UK is on the globe, map and atlas.• The United Kingdom is made up of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.• Locate England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on a map of the UK• Name the capital cities of the UK and know about some characteristics• The main seas around the UK are the North Sea, Irish Sea, Atlantic Ocean, English Channel• Know seasonal weather patterns of the UK• Know the weather symbols and types of weather (see vocabulary list)
lightning	Very bright flashes of light in the sky that happen during a thunderstorm.	
thunder	The loud noise that you hear from the sky after a flash of lightning, especially during a storm.	
cloud	A mass of water vapour that floats in the sky.	Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use world map, atlas, globe to locate places.• Use simple observational skills to study daily weather.



Science

'What shall I wear today?'

In our Science topic, we will be looking at the four seasons and matching them to their months. We will be looking closely at day length changes and keeping our own weather diaries as well as getting scientific and testing variation in wind speed in different parts of our school environment. We will be investigating the weather changes across all of the seasons and describing these changes for example, what happens to some plants and animals when the seasons change.

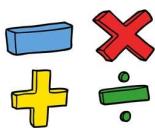
**Year 1: Seasonal Change Knowledge Mat (physics - seasons biology - plants)
What shall I wear today?**

Subject Specific Vocabulary	Interesting Book	Sticky Knowledge
Season A part of the year.		I can say what changes across the 4 seasons including weather and day length.
Autumn The time of year between September and November. Many leaves fall off the trees.		Interesting & Important Facts
Spring The time of year between March and May. There is usually lots of signs of new growth in Spring.		In the UK we have four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Summer is the hottest season and winter the coldest.
Summer The hottest season in the UK. It happens between June and August. The longest day is June 21 st .		Seasons change throughout the year because of the way the Earth travels around the Sun.
Winter The coldest season in the UK. Usually have snow in this season. Occurs between December and February.		In summer the longest day of the year is around June 21 st and in winter the shortest day of the year is usually December 21 st .
weather Weather is what the sky and the air outside are like, such as cold and cloudy. Also wind, rain, cloud, sun, snow		In summer, daylight hours can be up to 16 hours. In winter daylight length is up to 7 hours.
weather symbol These are signs used by to help us understand more about our daily weather.		Spring starts when the day and night are the same length (usually 21 st March. However, many say that Spring starts on March 1 st).
day length The time that the sun rises in the morning to the time that sun sets at night. It varies for each season.		When we have our summer it is winter in the southern hemisphere. When we have our winter Australia has its summer.
temperature It is a degree of hotness or coldness that can be measured using a thermometer.		Anders Celsius is known for inventing the Celsius thermometer scale. He was a swedish astronomer and physicist.
thermometer This is the instrument that measures the temperature.		
deciduous Deciduous trees are trees that shed their leaves once a year, usually during the season of autumn		John Dalton is known for measuring and recording weather using a variety of instruments. He was a chemist, physicist and meteorologist from Manchester.
coniferous Most conifers are evergreens, or trees that keep their leaves year-round.		

Literacy

As well as reading lots of texts related to our topics, we will also be reading and writing lots of traditional/fairy tales, letters, poetry with a focus on pattern and rhyme and information texts. Our grammar work will include writing in complete sentences and we will be continuing to punctuate sentences using a capital letters and a full stop at the end. We will also be using a capital letter for names of people, places and the days of the week. We will be continuing with a big focus on Handwriting by continuing to sit correctly at the table and holding our pencils comfortably and correctly.





Numeracy

During topic Maths lessons we will be using our knowledge of place value to solve problems and we will be reading and writing numbers from 1 to 50 in numerals and words. When given a number we will be learning to identify one more or one less and identify and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations including the number line. Some of the brilliant maths language we will be using is: equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most, least.

We will begin to deepen our understanding of number bonds within 20 and add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, as well as solving lots of addition and subtractions problems. This term, we will be diving into mass and volume. From exploring the weight of everyday objects to discovering the secrets behind liquid volumes, our classroom will transform into a hub of discovery and curiosity.

This term, we're challenging all our young mathematicians to power up their skills with **Numbots**! We're asking every child to log in and spend **at least 20 minutes a week** exploring the exciting world of numbers, puzzles, and challenges.

Let's see how many certificates we can earn as a class! Every minute spent on Numbots helps build confidence, improve mental maths, and unlock new levels of success.

Who will be our **certificate superstars** this term?



Computing

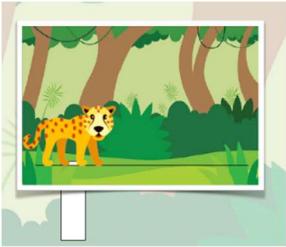
We will be using iPads, tablets and laptops in a range of subjects. In Computing this term, Year 1 children will be learning about instructions and sequencing. They will explore how an algorithm is a set of simple instructions and practise following and creating instructions using digital devices. Children will also learn that instructions need to be in the correct order to work properly. Later in the term, the children will create their own animated stories, developing their creativity while learning how technology can be used to tell stories and bring ideas to life.

Art

In Art, the children will be exploring 3D sculpture using paper. They will learn how to roll, shape and attach paper securely to create exciting sculptures and 3D drawings. Children will make creative choices about colour, shape and arrangement, and experiment with overlapping and decorating their work to add detail and pattern.

As part of the unit, the children will create a "Tree of Life" sculpture, using a range of paper-shaping techniques. They will also explore painting their sculptures using different tools to achieve good coverage and special effects. Throughout the unit, children will develop their creativity, perseverance and ability to work successfully with others.

DT



In Design and Technology, the children will be learning about moving mechanisms. They will explore sliders, levers and wheels while designing and making their own moving jungle animal pictures. Through this fun, hands-on project, children will learn how simple mechanisms work and how they can be used to make pictures move.



RE

'Who is Jewish and how do they live?

This term we will be learning about Jewish worldviews and ways of life. We will be learning about texts from the Torah and their importance for Jewish people today. We will find out about the mezuzah and the Shema prayer and what they mean for believers. Later in the term we will be finding out about Shabbat and Chanukah, discussing why Jewish people mark these times, what they learn from stories found in the Torah and why they are so important. today.

RSHE

This term in RSHE we will be looking at Online Relationships and understanding that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not so we will also look closer at Internet Safety and harms it has and that for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits. Moreover, we will be looking at mental wellbeing and how mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way that physical health is and that we have a normal range of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness). Finally, we will be looking at basic first aid so that we know how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.

Music



This term in music lessons we will be learning about Dynamics, Timbre and Notation. We will be Performing, Composing, Improvising, Listening and Appraising lots of music throughout the term as well as improving our Vocal Skills.

PE

This term, we're thrilled to dive into a variety of exciting activities in our PE lessons. Children will have the chance to explore **the rhythm and creativity of Dance**, master **dynamic Gymnastics moves**, and sharpen their ball skills with fun and engaging drills.

PE days are on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, so don't forget to bring your PE kit and be ready to jump in on the action! To keep things fresh, we'll send kits home for washing at the end of each half term - in **February** and again in **Summer**.

We're looking forward to see the children grow stronger, more confident, and ready to have lots of fun through movement this term. Let's get moving!



Other Information

Please prioritise time for **daily reading** with your child and record this in your child's green Reading Record book. Your child will be given home reading books each week and in addition to this they may borrow a book from the class reading corner if they would like to. When the green reading record book indicates that books have been read, they will be changed on your child's reading day. Ideally children should read (at least 5 times a week) a range of fiction, non-fiction texts and poetry. However, please remember that all reading counts! You might encourage your child to read one of their own books at home; read and follow a recipe; enjoy an extract from a magazine or have fun reading different street or road signs. Whatever your child has read we'd love to hear about it. We will be checking reading records each day and giving stamps when any type of home reading is recorded.

Weekly spellings will be set on a **Friday** and tested the following **Friday**. Please learn your weekly spellings and Year 1 Common Exception Words carefully.

Uniform

Please help your child and I, by naming (even if just in biro) **EVERY ITEM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM**, including coats, shoes, pumps and all those gloves, hats and scarves... they get everywhere! If an item has a name in/on it I can help to promptly return it.

Please continue to encourage your child to come into the school building in the mornings independently. The children have made a great start and settled very well into Year 1!

If you do have any concerns or questions about your child please do not hesitate to contact me. **I am here to help!** I would greatly appreciate it if parents could speak to me in the morning before 8.50am so that I can focus on settling the children into class and start the day promptly. Alternatively, you are welcome to speak to me after 3.35pm when all the children have been safely dismissed by a member of staff.

Miss Hobson