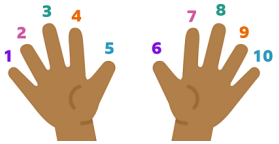
Year 1 Learning Overview

Autumn Term 2 2026







Phonics

Children will continue to develop their phonics knowledge by learning alternative sounds and exploring the different ways sounds can be represented. They will develop confidence in segmenting and blending and will increasingly use their phonics knowledge to sound out unfamiliar words when reading. Children will also work on recognising familiar words more fluently.

PE

Children will develop their fundamental movement skills through a range of games and activities. They will practise running, jumping, hopping, balancing and changing direction with increasing control and coordination. Children will learn to move safely in a shared space, follow simple rules and work cooperatively with others while developing their confidence and physical fitness.

Art

The children will be developing their drawing and painting skills. We will explore different ways of using lines, shapes, colours and textures to create artwork. The children will experiment with mixing primary colours to make new colours.

We will also be learning about the artist Wassily Kandinsky, exploring some of his famous abstract paintings.

Writing

Children will develop their sentence-writing skills, with a focus on constructing simple, meaningful sentences. They will practice using capital letters and full stops correctly and will continue to develop accurate letter formation, size and orientation. Children will be encouraged to apply their phonics knowledge when spelling words.

History

We will be exploring a range of celebrations and significant historical events. The children will learn about Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas, discovering how and why these celebrations are marked and some of the traditions associated with them.

We will also be learning about the Great Fire of London. The children will discover how the fire started, how it spread and what happened to the city. We will compare London in 1666 with London today, looking at how buildings, homes and everyday life have changed over time.

PSHE

The children will explore how we can help ourselves and others to feel happy, safe and included. We will talk about friendships, kindness and the importance of treating others with respect.

Maths

The children will be developing their understanding of addition and subtraction. The children will practise counting forwards and backwards, finding one more and one less, and exploring different ways to make numbers within 10.

R.E

The children will be learning about the Christian Christmas story and why it is an important celebration for Christians. We will explore the key events surrounding the birth of Jesus, including the roles of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men.

Science

Our science learning this half term will focus on everyday materials. We will learn new scientific vocabulary to describe materials and their properties, such as hard, soft, smooth, rough, shiny, waterproof and flexible.

The children will have opportunities to investigate and handle different objects, identify what materials they are made from and sort them into groups according to their properties.