



Year 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers, we are half way through the year already and the children are thoroughly enjoying our wider curriculum lessons. This year, we have been working on children becoming leaders and encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning. In the Autumn Term, we asked children what they would like to learn in the Spring Term. The overview below shows how we have linked the children's ideas to the National Curriculum.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In Design Technology we will be learning about levers and sliders. We will be looking at what levers and sliders are, where we can find them in our environments and what uses they have. We will also be learning about how they work and we will have a go at practising to create some levers and sliders. Our project, which we will complete by the end of the half term, will be creating Tower Bridge in the form of two levers and a boat in the form of a slider going across the River Thames! Wish us luck!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This half term, we will continue to focus on Christianity. We have enjoyed learning about the ways in which Jesus showed friendship to others. We will introduce the children to the story of Easter. We will do this by exploring Palm Sunday and the story of Jesus being greeted by people waving palm branches, when he entered into Jerusalem. We will learn that for Christians, this is a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into their hearts and of their willingness to follow him.

SCIENCE

In Science, we will be learning all about animals and humans; we will learn about animals' basic needs for survival. We will look at healthy diets and the importance of a healthy diet for animals, including humans. We will also look at the importance of hygiene and how animals, including humans, can keep themselves clean.

PSHE

In PSHE, we will be looking at how to keep physically and emotionally safe, including the responsible use of ICT. We will learn about what makes a 'Healthy Me', including exercise, rest and healthy eating. We will explore the importance of exercise and the benefits of exercising regularly. We will explore foods, the difference between healthy and unhealthy foods and how we can tell the difference between these foods. We will also learn about the importance of cleanliness and rest and the part these play in maintaining a 'Healthy Me'.

MUSIC

This half term, in Music, the spotlight is on combining pulse, rhythm and pitch. The children have already learnt about these elements individually, they will now learn how combining them creates a song (especially if we add words) or a piece of music. The children will learn this through exploring different songs, such as the 'Days of the Week' and 'Upside Down'.

ART

The children will be continuing their unit on 'Make Your Mark'. They will be using a range of drawing materials such as pencils, chalk, charcoal, pastels, felt tips and pens. Within the unit, they will be developing observational skills to look closely and reflect surface texture through mark-making. They will also be exploring mark-making using a range of tools; being able to create a diverse and purposeful range of marks through experimentation. They will describe and compare features of their own work and other's art work.

GEOGRAPHY

In Geography, we will be exploring the capital cities in the UK. We will do this by learning about the famous landmarks within these cities and some key facts about each of these cities. We are excited to research about the population in London, to locate Edinburgh's famous hills, to locate the rivers that run through Cardiff and to find out about the famous ship of Belfast! We are also thrilled that we will be going on a boat along the River Thames very soon to see some of the famous London landmarks!



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Times for the School Day

Year 1 children will continue to go straight into their classrooms, rather than lining up in the playground. The school begin day begins at 8.30am and gates open at 8.25am, so please ensure you are prompt and ready to enter when the class doors open at that time. Your child's teachers will be available to answer any quick questions during this period. Pick up sites will be the same.

School finishes at **3.25pm** and we ask that children are collected promptly. After a day of learning, it is quite upsetting for a child to be collected late. If you are going to be late due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the school office and they will pass a message on to the class teacher and your child.

Clothing

Please ensure all clothing is **clearly labelled** with your child's name and class and that your child is wearing the appropriate shoes for school.

Community News

PE DAY

Monday

Please ensure children come into school in their PE kits on the correct day.

Homework

Your child will get a new reading book suitable for their ability once a week, please ensure that children have their reading folders and home reading book in their school bag every day. Please listen to your child read for fifteen minutes every day and ask them lots of questions to check they understand what they have read. Children are encouraged to read the same book for a week to increase fluency and understanding.

Oxford Owl logins have also been assigned to your children this week, your child will be assigned a new book on Oxford Owl every week, and this is the same book that they are reading in their phonics lessons that week, so it is important that the children log in to Oxford Owl regularly.

In addition to this, spellings will also be handed out to your child every Friday. Please support your child by helping them to learn their spellings in fun ways ready for a spelling test the following Friday.

If you have any questions or would like any further information please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be happy to help.

Thank you for your support.

Year 1 Team