Year 1 Autumn 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians
Welcome to Year 1's Autumn 2 Issue.
We have an exciting half-term ahead with engaging & fulfilling learning opportunities, to help facilitate and foster a love of learning in all children.

Promoting British Values - Statutory Requirement

Democracy – children will discuss fair ways to decide on the roles that children play in our class assembly.

Rule of Law – through the anti-bullying week, children will discuss the impact that bullying can have on others and how serious it is.

Individual Liberty – children will continue to work as independent learners to build confidence, valuing their individual efforts and achievements.

Tolerance - children will learn how to work as a team and appreciating that others may have different opinions and ideas.

Mutual Respect - children will learn about Christmas festivals and celebrations that are important to some people and how they can demonstrate tolerance and respect to others.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)

Spiritual
The children will learn how they can explore their creativity through art and design.

Moral
They will think about the decisions they make and how they are responsible for the choices that they make.

Social
They will learn how to show respect for one another and what kind and unkind behaviour looks like.

Cultural
They will learn that we can share in the cultural celebrations of others, such as Christmas.

Community Values

The Community Values we will focus on this half term are Peace and Hope.
Through assemblies and in class, we will be helping pupils understand what these Values mean, and how we can put them into practice.

PSHE

Connecting with others
The children will learn about how they can help themselves and others keep happy and safe.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November, with the theme: Break the Silence.
Odd Socks Day is taking place on Monday 16th November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



Readers

As Readers, children will focus on developing their phonic knowledge as a main strategy for reading words. They will also start to use VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Sequence) to support their reading comprehension. Our

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core story this half term will be The Bog Baby.



Writers

As Writers, the children will continue to develop their handwriting skills through regular practise. They will focus on basic sentence structure, such as using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They will learn how to use ideas in stories and adapt these to create their own narratives. They will create a non-fiction fact file about a chosen animal.

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – Opening the Door to Imagination

This half term, pupils will take part in a whole-school writing competition inspired by a tiny door hidden within a snow-covered tree. With an unusual footprint and curious objects scattered nearby, who might live behind the door, and what secrets could it hold? Perhaps a magical kingdom, an extraordinary miniature world or a place where anything is possible lies beyond it! Using this intriguing stimulus, pupils will explore their imaginations, develop their own interpretations and create a piece of writing in a genre of their choice. We look forward to seeing the creative pieces of writing our young writers produce and celebrating their achievements at the end of term.



Mathematicians

As Mathematicians, the children will learn addition and subtraction skills. They will use their prior knowledge of place value to support this. They will also learn about shapes and patterns.

Scientists

As Scientists, the children will continue to observe seasonal changes and the weather.

They will learn about different groups of animals. They will look at the structure of animals and identify the similarities and differences. They will look at animal diets and find out what carnivores, herbivores and omnivores eat.

World Science Day

On Monday 10th November we'll be joining schools and communities around the world to celebrate World Science Day for Peace and Development. This year's theme is **"Common ground through science diplomacy"**.

The Science Gadget Shop is Coming!

To make the week even more memorable, we will be running a Science Gadget Shop packed with exciting pocket-money science curiosities, toys, and small experiments for the children to explore and purchase.

When: Gadgets will be available to buy throughout the week starting on the 10th of November.

Pricing & Details: We will send out a full list of available items and exact pricing closer to the time so you can plan ahead.

Here's a brief guide on how to make the most of World Science Day with your children:

Exploration and Discovery: Encourage your children to explore the world around them. Take a nature walk, visit a science museum, or simply observe the plants,

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animals, and phenomena in your backyard. Foster a sense of curiosity by asking questions together.

Question and Discuss: Encourage your child to ask questions about the world around them. Even if you don't know the answers, explore them together. Discuss the importance of the scientific method and how it helps us find answers.

Spiritual Thinkers

We follow the Bradford Agreed Syllabus. The school understands the importance of the children needing to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture, but which guide their own development.

This term, the topic is '**What does it mean to belong to a community of belief?'** The children will think about places that are special to different religions. They will discuss what is similar and different between belonging to school and belonging to a mosque or church.

Historians

As Historians, the children will reflect on their own personal chronology. They will create a timeline of their own lives and think about memorable things that have happened. They will have opportunities to compare their own childhoods with their parents and grandparents.

Artists

As artists, the children will learn about painting and mixed media. They will learn how to use a variety of brushes to create different paint effects and marks. They will look at the work of Alma Thomas and her use of painting with colour. Using her style to create their own paintings.

Computer Scientists

The children will continue to develop skills in information literacy. They will continue to develop keyboard skills and use the internet to retrieve digital content. They will learn how to use a program called Paintz to create digital artwork.

Useful websites

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
https://www.topmarks.co.uk
https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk

Musicians

During this half term, children will explore Boomwhackers Lite. They will look at its origins and how to different genres use the instrument. They will explore the different musical characteristics with a view to being able to recognise some of them by ear at the end of the course.

Drama

This half term the children will perform in their first class assembly. They will learn how to act out a story and perform to an audience.

Health and Fitness advisors

During PE, they will learn basic golf skills. They will learn how to hold a club and aim at a target.
Through gymnastics, they will learn to travel in a variety of different ways, balance using different body parts and put a range of movements together to create a sequence.

Forth coming events

World Science Day
Monday 18th November 2026

Odd Socks Day - Anti-bullying week
Monday 16 November 2026

School closes
Friday 18 December 2026

School reopens
Monday 4th January 2026

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Reminders

School uniform

Please remember to clearly label your child's clothes and pumps.

Learning

As you can see from our newsletter, we have a broad and varied curriculum. We make links across subject areas and also to real life experiences to make learning interesting and exciting.

Our individual and class targets help children to identify their next steps and how to achieve them.

Behaviour

Children are to always behave their very best at all times. Children know that this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school ethos. Children are taught to be considerate and supportive of each other. Children are encouraged to be welcoming and positive to visitors.

Attendance and punctuality

We will promote the importance of regular attendance and punctuality and discuss how missed days and late arrivals have an impact on learning.

We want to increase the number of children with 100% attendance and punctuality each half term.

Be on time every day, every week!

Class management

All the children are expected to show respect for things in the classroom and around school. They are all involved in making sure the classroom and cloakrooms are kept tidy and safe.

Alongside this, specific roles are given to children on a rota. As we want to develop children's awareness to environmental issues, some of the specific jobs are to make sure that the lights are turned off when the classroom is empty and that the class recycling bin is emptied appropriately.

We are always pleased to share children's personal achievements in and out of school.

A display board is located in the classroom where children's efforts are acknowledged and regularly changed to maintain motivation levels.

Finally…

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child. The school/home partnership plays an extremely important role in your child's progress and their learning journey. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 1 team.