



St Mary's CE Primary School

'Nurturing Success'



Information for Parents and Carers - Year 1 Autumn 2025

Our themes for this term are 'Explorers' and 'Animals and Humans'

We hope that you will find the following information useful in supporting your child in his or her learning, both at school and at home. Our term begins with a wellbeing theme and a recap on some essential learning from your child's time in foundation stage. We will support the all children by giving them the opportunity to share lots of information about themselves and help to answer all their questions about being in Year 1.

During the first term we will gradually introduce weekly homework activities to help consolidate your child's learning in spelling and maths. This will mainly be to help them practise phonics and prepare for weekly spelling and arithmetic tests. We hope that you will also support your child by reading at home each day. During the next few weeks, we will be sending home log-in details for some fun learning apps to help with reading, spelling and maths.

Reading books - We aim to change reading books twice each week. Please ensure that your child has their bookbag and reading book in school each day so that these are available for staff to check resources and hear children read.

Planning is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus for religious education.



English

This term the children will be looking at a range of information texts and stories. Particular focus will be on traditional tales after the half term. The children will participate in regular reading and shared reading sessions to complement phonics through daily phonics sessions and independent reading. They will continue to learn to read, spell and use high frequency words and words which consolidate their understanding of sounds (phonics). We will be using the **Bug Club** phonics scheme for daily phonics lessons. The children will focus on phase 5 sounds (ph, wh, long vowels and split diagraphs sounds, ow, ew, and ue). Please support your child's learning by listening to them read at home as well as helping them to play Bug Club games.

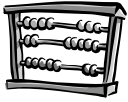
During this term we will introduce the children to **Spelling Shed** games and after half-term the children will start to have weekly spelling tests. Playing the Spelling Shed games and helping your child to learn the spellings will help them enormously. Spellings are sent home on Fridays and tests are on Friday morning (after half-term). The children will be supported in learning to do this and rewarded with house-stamps for both effort and achievement. Please support your child with learning the spellings which we will be sending home weekly (after half-term).

Children will develop their writing skills and learn to structure simple sentences. They will continue to build their understanding on simple punctuation used in sentences. They will extend their vocabulary, learning to use a wider range of words in different contexts and within the topics we cover. Children will be encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills, and learn to listen with sustained concentration. We will also focus on teaching the children to write in a clear handwriting script.

After half term the children will be participating in a year group production of a traditional tale. This will be a very exciting experience for the children that encourages many key skills within the English curriculum and across other subject areas too. It is also a wonderful opportunity for your child to perform in front of the school and for parents. More information on this will follow towards the end of this half term.

After half term your child will receive a list of words on a Friday to learn for a spelling test on the following Friday. The children will not have spelling homework books this year and will not be expected to hand their spelling homework in. We expect children to use the grid on their spelling homework sheet to learn their spellings using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' strategy and to use other strategies for learning these spellings and their meanings on the back of the sheet. The same words to learn will also be set on Spelling Shed so that children can use these resources to help them to practise their spellings. Further guidance for spelling homework and the expectations can be found on the school website.

Mathematics



This term the children will be developing their skills in counting and ordering numbers. They will also be introduced to place value and sequencing. We will progress onto addition and subtraction and begin to develop their problem solving and reasoning skills. They will learn to sort objects according to a given criteria and learn the properties of shapes. We will be using the government approved Maths – No Problem workbooks in order to support and record their learning. In addition to the daily maths lesson, the children will also take part in an arithmetic lesson where they will play games and learn key facts before completing a short test. The facts that the children will be tested on will be sent home after half term as maths homework on a Friday and they will be tested the following Friday. This will help to build their maths skills. As mentioned previously, this will be introduced after half term.

Science



This term our theme will be focusing on learning about animals and humans. The children will be working scientifically to investigate a variety of different animals. The children will be learning about animals within their local environment as well as in the wider world. In addition to this the children will be learning about the animal's different habitats and to categorise, describe, compare, and contrast animals based upon their species and diet. They will also learn to identify basic parts of the human body and recognise which part of the body is associated with each sense.



Computing

Throughout the term, children will be taught about the importance of using technology and the internet safely. We will be using stories written for young children to cover aspects of e-safety. The children will look at simple recording techniques using an iPad and write instructions for a programmable toy (Beebot).

Religious Education



The focus for RE learning this term will be about Christianity including the stories of the Lost Son, Jonah and the Whale. In the second half term, we will learn about the nativity story and we will be thinking about the question, 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'

Design and Technology



During the first part of the Autumn term, children will develop skills to grate cheese to make a cheese sandwich, and peel and chop fruit to create a fruit kebab that they will design. After half-term, they will design a moving picture linked to the Christmas Story. They will observe different types of lever mechanisms and then create their own to move the characters in the scene.



Art and Design

Using 'Owl Babies' as our creative focus, the children are going to develop their colour mixing and painting skills using thin and thick brushes. The children will be developing their knowledge of mark making as well as primary and secondary colours.



Music

This term in music we are exploring different sounds. Your child will begin to recognise the different sounds instruments make. They will handle and play simple percussion instruments. In the first half of the term, we will explore the themes in the unit 'Hey You.' We will be listening to and describing music. We will also be learning songs and accompanying our singing with percussion instruments. After half term the children will be learning songs about traditional tales.

Physical Education



In PE, the children will develop their running skills in an aim to 'beat their personal best' to run/walk/skip the 'Daily Mile'. This term we will be focusing on ball skills and some of the fundamental skills required for PE including running, skipping and jumping. PE is on a Tuesday afternoon, and will alternate between being inside and outside. **Children are now expected to arrive at school on a Tuesday in their PE kit and wear it all day.** Sensible PE kits are advised now that we are coming into the colder seasons. If your child has earrings, please remove them on this day or if unable to please ensure that they are covered up to prevent accidents.



Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

During PSHE the children are focusing on their wellbeing and developing a healthy lifestyle. They will have opportunities to discuss any worries as well as learning about good and not so good feelings and how they can manage these appropriately. During the second half of the Autumn term children will learn ways of keeping physically and emotionally safe. We place great importance on speaking and listening throughout the curriculum in Year 1 and the children will be encouraged to participate in 'Circle Time' to discuss and listen to each other's thoughts and feelings.



Geography

Children will embark on an exciting journey around the World to learn about the continents and oceans of the world. They will begin by learning about countries in Great Britain and then move around the world, exploring as they go. Children will have an opportunity to look at different maps and learn how to interpret and label them. They will also compare the different places they visit with where they live.

History

After half term, the children will learn about the history of toys. They will learn about how the materials used to make toys have changed over time and how the role of technology has adapted modern toys. They will have the opportunity to see how the toys have changed over time and consider which toys have remained popular.

Thank you for taking time to read this information.