

Helping Your Child in Year One

2026 - 2027

Together we care, together we achieve!



Welcome to Year One

It has been so lovely to have the children back in school! The children are settling well into Year One. We have been taking advantage of our outside area, and the children have enjoyed opportunities to extend and embed their learning through play and choosing activities.

English

We start the term by writing about our summer experiences and ourselves. Our topic focus this term is Animals: we will label animals, write adjectives to describe them and write about our favourite creatures. We look at animals in the texts: Dear Zoo, Monkey Puzzle, The Storm Whale and a Diary of a Wombat. We will also learn about the autumn season. We will go on an autumn hunt and explore our school surroundings to observe seasonal changes. Then we will write autumn poems using adjectives.

In Term Two, our topic will be 'Toys.' We will begin by reading the text Old Bear by Jane Hissey. We will draw and write about our favourite characters; discuss how we would rescue Old Bear from the attic, and we will read a variety of Old Bear stories. We will then look at toys from the past and will read Lost in the Toy Museum. We will write our own non-fiction booklet about old toys! We will draw out similarities and differences between toys from the past and modern toys. In the final week of term, we will read The Polar Express.

Phonics

We will recap and embed all the Phonics knowledge and skills that were learned in Reception. Later in the term we will introduce the children to Phase Four consonant blends and words, before moving onto learning Phase Five sounds and words. The children will continue to gain confidence using these sounds to decode, segment and blend when reading and writing. We will be starting 'words of the week' soon, this consists of five words a week to practice at home and in class. The words are often related to our topic or the Year One common exception words. This is not a spelling challenge but an opportunity for the children to embed vocabulary often used in our writing activities.

Reading

It is important that an adult reads with each child every day. Please read with your child to ensure their phonics and comprehension skills are regularly practiced at home. We celebrate each read at home by moving the child's name around a Reading Star. A special sticker will be given after five recorded reads at home. We celebrate each time a child reads ten books with a certificate, the children really enjoy challenging themselves to see how many reads they can do over the course of the year. Reading books are changed on Fridays.

Maths

In the first term, we will be focusing on numbers and their value within 10. We begin every lesson by undertaking practical activities and develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts in order for the children to master them. We will practice counting forwards and backwards, adding and subtracting numbers and counting on from specific numbers. We will continue to add and subtract numbers and develop our understanding of fact families.

We will be exploring a range of physical resources and different representations of numbers. Please continue to practice number formation at home, Year One addition number facts, and spotting and counting numbers in real life situations.

Topic

Autumn 1 – Science focus 'All About Animals' – classifying animals, sketching animals, using oil pastels to create an animal picture based on the artist Henri Rousseau, identifying and naming animal body parts and exploring texts that feature animals (Dear Zoo, Monkey Puzzle, The Storm Whale and a Diary of a Wombat).

Autumn 2 – History focus 'Toys – How have toys changed?' – exploring old and new toys, identifying what toys are made from, comparing and grouping materials, sketching toys, studying Victorian toys, exploring texts based on toys (Lost in the Toy Museum and Old Bear,) and designing, making and evaluating our own moving vehicle.

We will also study and observe the changing seasons and weather patterns throughout the year.

Forest School

As an exciting addition to our classroom learning, we will soon be facilitating Forest School sessions on Thursdays. We are expecting our first session to be on Thursday 24th September 2026. On these days children can come into school in their own suitable clothes. They should also be provided with waterproofs, a warm coat, wellies, and a change of clothes including socks and shoes.

PE

Seadragons (1AD) – Tuesday

Starfish (1VS) – Wednesday

Seahorses (1CG) – Friday

On these days the children must come to school wearing their PE kits. They will wear their PE kit all day and it will not be left in school. Kit must be a white t-shirt, blue shorts or tracksuit bottoms, trainers or plimsoles and their school jumper or cardigan.

Useful websites and home learning

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-3>

<http://www.ictgames.com/>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z3q4d2p>

<https://www.numbots.co.uk>

Thank you for your support and please keep in touch.

Miss Gillett (Seahorses), Mrs Smith (Starfish) and Mrs DeGouveia (Seadragons)

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Please do be careful when taking photographs of your children at any school events. Please do not post photos with any other children on social media.

Feel free to send photos of your own children to family members, but again, please do ensure that these do not get posted on social media.