



ELLEN WILKINSON

Primary School

Curriculum Newsletter 2026-2027 - Quarter 1

Dear Year 1 parents and carers,

Each quarter we will send a newsletter outlining the key learning and coverage in each subject area, along with useful links and ideas of how you can help to support your child's learning at home.

Learning mats, with key knowledge and vocabulary for each of the Foundation subjects, will be shared with your child via their Google classroom account.

Core subjects

English	In Reading, we will be using our Animaphonics books, with a focus on: • Reading accurately by segmenting and blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing the GPCs (grapheme-phoneme correspondences) we have taught. • Applying phonics knowledge and skills to decode words. • Reading aloud accurately from books that are closely matched to their developing phonics knowledge. • Re-reading familiar books to develop fluency, confidence and expression. In Writing, we will be exploring the texts <i>Cave Baby</i> by Julia Donaldson and <i>Pig the Pug</i> by Aaron Blabey. We will focus on: • Understanding how words can be combined to make sentences. • Joining words and clauses using 'and'. • Sequencing sentences to create short narratives. • Using spaces between words. • Using capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks correctly. • Using expanded noun phrases to add description and detail (for example, <i>the blue butterfly</i> or <i>the man in the moon</i>). • Using capital letters for names and the personal pronoun I. Useful links/ways to support at home: - Read your Animaphonics books and library books regularly with questions about what your child has read to build up their comprehension skills. - Use Active Learn (Bug Club) online to read a variety of books that have comprehension questions embedded within the stories. - Practice your phonics sounds and words that are sent home. - BBC Bitesize.
Maths	Please see below the overview and coverage for Maths for the quarter. - Identifying, ordering, reading and writing numbers to 20.

	- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. - Simple addition to 20. - Simple subtraction to 20. - Differences between numbers. - Worded problems involving addition and subtraction - Sharing equally. - Groups of 2, 5 and 10s. Useful links/ways to support at home: - Access Freckle weekly to consolidate subject / topic knowledge, these topics will be included in weekly homework assignments. - BBC bitesize.
Science	This quarter, our unit of learning is Seasons. We will explore the four seasons—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter—and discover what makes each one unique. Throughout the unit, we will investigate the different types of weather we experience during each season and learn about the clothing we might need to wear to keep us comfortable. We will also explore how the length of daylight changes throughout the year, identifying which seasons have the most and least sunlight. As we learn, we will make comparisons between the seasons, observing how the weather, temperature, daylight and our daily lives change from one season to another. Useful links/ways to support at home: - BBC bitesize. - Discuss the changes in weather and seasons with your child (changes of leaves, warm and cold temperatures, change in clothes due to the weather in the current season).

Foundation subjects

History	This quarter, our unit is ‘How Has the World Changed Since the 19th Century?’ We will explore the concepts of the past, living memory and beyond living memory, developing our understanding of how historians use these terms: • The Past: anything that has already happened, from yesterday to hundreds of years ago. • Living Memory: events and experiences that happened within the lifetime of people who are still alive today, such as parents or grandparents. • Beyond Living Memory: history from a time before anyone alive today was born. Throughout the unit, we will compare life in the past with life today, exploring how toys, homes, classrooms, transport and communication have changed over time. We will consider what has changed, what has stayed the same, and how these changes have influenced the way people live. We will also be focusing on the key historical vocabulary included on our Knowledge Mats. Please take some time to look through these with your
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	child on Google Classroom, as becoming familiar with this vocabulary will support their learning throughout the unit. Useful links/ways to support at home: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zkqmhyc https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zj3nf82 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zc9s6g8
ART	This quarter, our Art unit is Portraits. Taking inspiration from the work of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, we will explore how artists can use different types of lines, colours and symbols to express ideas and create meaning. We will develop our understanding of facial proportions, including using the rule of halves to help us position facial features accurately. We will then bring these skills together to design and create our own mixed-media portraits, experimenting with a range of materials and techniques. Useful links/ways to support at home: - Draw your own portraits at home using a mirror and the 'rule of half'. - Visit a gallery to look at different styles of portraits.
Computing	This quarter we will be practising logging on and allowing the children to feel confident using Chromebooks. They will access RM Unify, Freckle and Google Classroom. Useful links/ways to support at home: - Use the children's logins to support them to type their own username and password into the various apps. - Access the online platforms at home and show the children how to use them. - Practice typing on a computer/table/phone to make your child more confident in using a keyboard.
RE/PSHE	This quarter in RE, our unit is 'Belonging to Christianity and Christmas'. We will explore the different groups we belong to, such as our families, school and clubs, and consider what it means to belong to a Christian family and community. We will also learn about a range of Christian artefacts, symbols and objects, exploring their meanings and importance within Christianity. Our PSHE unit this quarter is 'Being Me'. We will explore what it means to feel safe and secure, as well as developing positive relationships and settling into a new class. We will think about our achievements and what makes us proud, while also exploring the difference between good and poor choices. We will discuss how our choices can affect ourselves and others, and consider the consequences that can follow from our actions. Useful links/ways to support at home: - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvfnkmm - Discussing good and bad choices and what consequences are for your actions.

	- Talk to your child about how they are feeling from changing classes and ask them to express their feelings.
PE	Our PE units this half term are Multi-skills and Net and Wall. Next half term is Dance and Striking and fielding. We will focus on skills such as throwing and catching, hitting a target and changing speed and direction. To gain knowledge towards sports such as Hockey. <i>PE days - Thursday and Friday</i> On your child's PE day(s), please ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit, details of which can be found in the school uniform policy. Please remember to send your child in their full PE kit; they will not be changing in school. If clubs are on non-PE days and your child attends a sport, they are allowed to change at the end of the day.
Music	This quarter in Music, we will explore and identify different sounds and their sources. We will develop our listening skills by investigating the sounds we hear around us and learning to recognise where they come from. We will also begin to describe and compare sounds using musical vocabulary.

Educational Visits

As part of our Christmas celebrations, we will be visiting a nativity in the run-up to Christmas. Further details, including dates and arrangements, will be shared later in the year.

We are also hoping to organise more fun and exciting trips and experiences throughout the year. Any further information and updates will be shared with you via ParentMail.

Home Learning

Each week your child should get:

- ☐ **Reading:**
 - Children will take home a library book chosen by them and a phonics book weekly related to the sound they have learnt that week.
 - In addition, we encourage you to read stories to your child regularly, and have a healthy reading culture at home, to promote a love of reading. This will also support your child in their writing.
 - BugClub is a platform available to all - linked above.
- ☐ **Spellings:**
 - Ensure opportunities throughout the week for your child to practise their spellings. A weekly spelling test will take place.
- ☐ **Maths practice:**
 - Your child should complete tasks assigned to them on Freckle. This will consolidate their learning from the week. Times table rock star is also available but not compulsory until later in the year.

Please speak to your child's class teacher, if you have any questions about how to access

any of the school's learning platforms.

**All home learning will be issued on a Friday and collected on a Wednesday.
Other subject tasks will be set at the discretion of the class teacher.**

If you find anything out, come across an exciting book or find a great website, please let us know so we can pass the information on to all our other parents.

Many thanks for your help and support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Carneiro (Clownfish) and Miss Adams (Lionfish).