



Welcome to Year 1

Welcome back Year 1 families! We hope you have had a lovely and restful break. We are now excited for the new Summer term and looking forward to lots more fantastic learning!

Phonics

Daily Rocket Phonics sessions will resume this term as we continue to focus on blending (reading) and segmenting (spelling) skills. We will work through the remaining graphemes while also revisiting previously learned graphemes and four blends.

Through a range of activities, the children will have an opportunity to read words, both real and nonsense, and to write words and sentences using the graphemes they have learned. The children will also continue to have access to many interactive activities in our classroom, enabling them to learn their phonics through play.

The Year 1 statutory phonics screening is scheduled to take place early in June 2025, so we will also be gearing up for this in the coming weeks.

Phonics homework will be sent home via a QR code, giving the children many opportunities to practise reading real and alien words.

Reading

Last term, the children made great progress in their reading, and many are now beginning to read with great fluency. This term, your child will continue to take part in a guided reading session with an adult twice a week. There will also be opportunities to read individually with an adult regularly. As guided reading sessions occur every day, please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record to school daily.

We will continue to change books on Tuesdays. We would also encourage you to continue reading with your children at least three times per week and record this in their reading records. The reward system for regular home reading will continue to operate, and I have topped up my prize box in anticipation!

English

This term, our work will focus on writing diary entries and understanding the key features of this text type. This will lead us to write a diary entry about our upcoming trip to Hesketh Farm.

Moving on from this, we will read Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett. Once again, we will explore the characters, settings, and plot before planning and writing our own story.

In addition to this, we will explore writing riddles all about animals.



Handwriting

Regular handwriting sessions will continue to take place throughout the week. During these sessions, we will focus on writing simple words and sentences in correct, consistent formation.

Maths

We will begin this term by securing our understanding of adding and subtracting within 20 and place value to 50/100. We will then focus on multiplication and division. To begin, we will use practical resources to show how objects can be grouped or shared before representing them with pictures.

Daily maths sessions will focus on these strands, and we will work in small steps. Whole class and small group activities will give the children the opportunity to consolidate their learning, as will many interactive activities in our classroom, which the children can access independently.



Spellings

This term, we will continue to send home weekly spellings. This will give the children the opportunity to practise the phonics patterns they have learned during phonics sessions and to learn a number of tricky words and useful words.

We will then have our '**Spelling Test**' every Friday, which will give the children the opportunity to recall the spellings they have learned. Please help your child to practise at home.

Science

During science, we will continue our work on 'Plants'. The children will explore the school grounds, studying and identifying a variety of different plants.

The children will also learn about 'Animals.' We will study many different animals, describing and comparing their structures and examining their distinct characteristics.

We will also learn how to classify and group animals according to what they eat (carnivore, omnivore and herbivore) and their animal type (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals).

Finally, we will revisit the topic of 'Seasonal Change', particularly the changes and weather associated with the Spring/Summer season.



RE

First we will look at what it means to belong to a community of belief.

In this unit pupils will learn about what it means to belong to a community, including a religious community. They will learn what they might see in a religious building, and what people do when they go there.

Later in the term, we will think about why and how we care for others. Through a variety of Christian and Muslim stories, the children will develop an awareness of what 'caring' looks like for people of different faith backgrounds.

Computing

This term, the children will begin to understand what algorithms are and how they are implemented as programs on digital devices. The children will aim to move a programmable toy in different directions by giving precise, ordered instructions.

PE

PE will take place on **Monday** and **Thursday** for the first half of this term. On these days, the children should come to school wearing their PE kit, which they will wear for the entire day. A dance coach will be coming in on Monday's PE lesson.

Ms Lawrenson will take the PE lesson on Thursday. The focus of our PE lessons this term will be Sports day practise and developing the children's jumping and throwing skills.

After May half term, our PE days will revert back to **Tuesday** and **Thursday** where we will have a Multi skills coach in.

Design & Technology

This term, Ms Lawrenson will teach the children all about 'Simple Mechanisms', such as making a slider or lever before they design and make their own moving picture using a simple mechanism.

History

The focus of our history lessons will be 'Travel and Transport.' We will examine different forms of transport, consider how transport has changed over time, and begin to develop a chronology of automobiles, trains and space travel.

We will also learn about significant individuals such as George Stephenson, the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong, who have each played a pivotal role in the development of travel and transport over time.



PSHE/Global Learning

During PSHE, we will be thinking about the things that go into our bodies and onto our skin and how they can make people feel. We will also learn how to identify things that can be harmful.

Later in the term, we will consider where money comes from, how to make good choices when spending money and how to save and keep it safe. We will also learn about the different jobs people do.

We will also continue to revisit our Global Learning regularly through the Global Goals.

Geography

We will begin this term by looking at 'Our Wonderful World' and learning the names, locations, and characteristics of the world's seven continents.

The children will also have the opportunity to compare and contrast Otley to a location in Ghana, Africa. We will study the human and physical geography of the locations and the everyday lives of the people there.



Art

During art lessons, the children will use animals as inspiration to explore different media, including painting, collage, and sculpture.

In particular, we will look at Australian Aboriginal artwork, African landscapes and camouflage patterns.



Music

Mrs Booth will continue to teach Music on Thursday afternoons. During music lessons, the children will study different styles of music, including rhythm and composition.

Homework

The children should aim to read at least three times weekly, and they should record this in their reading records.

Phonics homework will be sent home via a QR code, giving the children lots of opportunities to practise reading real and alien words.

Spellings will be sent home on a Friday, and the children will be tested each week.

Christian Values

Our Christian Values this term are **Honesty** and **Respect**. The children will be talking about these values in class worship, and we will all be trying to demonstrate the values in school.



Trips

On Tuesday 6th May, we will visit Hesketh Farm, where we will feed and pet lots of animals, collect eggs, experience a tractor ride, and so much more.

