

Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a restful break. We would like to start by saying how proud we are of all of the children for their ongoing enthusiasm to learning in Year 1 and the progress they have already made so far. They have settled in extremely well to our daily routines and we hope to keep the momentum going with a busy half term ahead!

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the second half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information. Our overall big question continues to be **'How do humans look after themselves and each other?'** We will be discussing this in class and making links throughout the curriculum to deepen our responses to this.

In **English**, we will begin with a fiction book *Winter Sleep* we will be comparing a glade in the summer to a glade in the winter as part of our overall topic of weather and seasons. We will write the story of the way a creature hibernates. Later in the half term we will be writing our own information reports about different types of weather and create a leaflet about different seasons. Our **reading** programs of daily DSR and Jolly Phonics will carry on. In Phonics we are encouraging children to read phonetic books to apply their understanding of the phonics they have learnt. In DSR we make sure we are also focusing on comprehension skills such as retelling a story and inferring how a character might be feeling.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will be on addition and subtraction. We will be learning how to count-on mentally to add two groups together, use a number line to help us add and use part whole models to create our own number sentences. In subtraction we will begin by using physical objects to take away, then move onto crossing out pictures. Children will become confident with the subtraction symbol, using the number line to count back and part whole models to subtract. We will also be learning to name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will focus on different ways we could sort the shapes, using the language of their properties to explain our choices.

Our **Geography** topic is 'Weather'. We will learn about the different types of weather in the UK and that the UK has a temperate climate. Linking to Science, we will then learn to associate the weather with the four seasons before comparing the UK climate with tropical and polar climates.

Our **Science** topic links with Geography as we are learning about the seasons. We will be focusing on the changes that happen during each season, learning about what animals do in Winter and making our own weather station.

In **Music** we will be using our bodies and instruments to create pieces of music linked to each season. We will think about rhythm, and which instruments would best represent different types of weather.

In **Computing**, we will talk about online safety and being kind online. Then children will also learn how to program Code-a-Pillars and Beebots and make weather maps in PurpleMash.

Finally, our “big question” in **Religious Education** this term is: *‘Why is each person in the Nativity important’* In this unit we will look at each character from the Nativity story and what they represent. We will learn how important each person is to the story and discuss which character is most important to us.

We are very hopeful that the swimming pool will be open for our weekly swimming lesson on **Tuesdays**. The first session will be on **Tuesday 15th November**. Please ensure that your child brings a clean swimming costume/shorts, clean towel and swimming hat. Goggles and flipflops are optional. PE will then be moved to **Fridays**. Please ensure your child brings the correct kit.

Core Homework will be given out in the first week of the half term and includes spellings, a mental maths focus and details of the new project. Children will have a weekly **spelling test on Monday**. Optional homework, for those that have opted in, will continue to be provided on Wednesdays, to be returned the following Monday. Optional homework can be found online in the year 1 Homework team by logging in to RM Unify using your child’s username and password which has been sent home already.

Please ensure that your child is reading regularly at home, this will really support their progress in school.

We are really looking forward to this half term, building on the great progress that the children made last half term. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Best wishes,
Team Year 1

