

Class 1 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2026

Welcome back to school and welcome Year 1s to Class 1. I hope you will all be very happy in Class 1, and parents/carers, I look forward to seeing you at the school gate mornings and afternoons and the classroom is always welcome to you too. Please do come in and see how amazing our new classroom looks!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back and will be using the couple of days to establish routines, get to know each other and learn the new daily timetable as well as getting stuck into our learning!

Organisation for the week

I teach Class 1, Monday - Thursday and Mrs Guy will teach Class 1 on a Friday. Mrs Guy is a qualified teacher and also the class TA with me Monday - Thursday.

Outdoor Learning is on a Thursday afternoon. The first half term will be Year 1s and the second half term will be Year 2s. Please can children bring their forest school clothes, wellies and waterproofs into school to get changed into. Year 2s will do DT whilst Year 1s are at forest school.

PE trainers need to be in school every day (if the children don't already wear black ones as their school shoes) as the children have 30 minutes of PE each day and just change their shoes for this. 'Work out Wednesday' is every Wednesday and the children wear their PE kits to school. Please ensure the children have suitable trainers that fit them correctly and ones that they can do up independently. Please, no laces unless they are super confident! The same goes for school shoes.

In addition to this, we will also be participating in several HIIT sessions throughout the day. These will take place during transitions of lessons and at times when the children need to do a quick five-minute burst of exercise. Research suggests that exercise that raises the heart rate quickly releases endorphins which help children focus much better. Exercises might include using the running track, dancing, star jumps, cross-lateral movements etc. We also participate in calming activities during these times if needed. Classical music and slow movements also have huge benefits to calming and regulation ourselves and our emotions.

Read, Write Inc

Read, Write Inc continues to be taught in small groups by the same teacher or teaching assistant each day. Your child will know which group they are in and who their teacher is. Our Read Write Inc sessions are split into two separate parts now: The reading part and phonics part. The reading part will focus on children's reading, fluency and decoding. The phonics sessions then follow. In these sessions, the year 1s will be focussing on learning new special friends for the whole scheme as well as retaining ones already learnt whilst reading words with these sounds in. This is all in preparation for the Year 1 phonics screen test in June. Phonics sessions for Year 2s will focus on retaining the sounds learnt in year 1 and reading words with these sounds in fluently as well as breaking down longer words to read.

Children will bring reading books home this week. They will be bringing home a book bag book which is a new text to read at home which links to the book we are reading in class. Please can you ensure book bags are brought into school EVERY DAY please. New books will come home on a Wednesday and changed the following Wednesday. Please do write in their reading record books when you have listened to them read or you have shared other books together with your child.

Dojo points will be given out to children who have read at home at least 3 times a week although every night will have the best results. It is important to aim to listen to your child read and read books together every day. I can't stress how important it is for your child to read at home to support their reading journey. Establishing a routine at home where you read daily will help massively and encourage those children who are reluctant to read at home. Children who read regularly at home make accelerated progress in school.

We will also give out 'love of reading' dojo points for any books that have been shared and enjoyed at home with your child alongside their RWI book. This can be read together, read to the child or the child reading independently. So please do write these in their reading records too.

Maths:

In Maths, we are focussing our learning on place value and number. In year 1, we will be working hard to ensure the children are confident with their numbers to 10 to begin with and moving on to 20. They need to be able to write these, identify them and understand how numbers are made. They will be introduced to addition and subtraction too - understanding the symbols for these operations and being able to calculate quickly and efficiently We will be doing lots of practical maths to support this and ensuring children are confident to write numbers correctly so that they can begin to record their learning in their maths books. In year 2, we will be working with numbers to 100 - understanding the 10s and 1s within a number and moving onto addition and subtraction within 100. In Year 1 we had learnt numbers to 50, so our learning this year will build upon this.

History: We will be learning about 'The Gunpowder Plot' this term, taught by Mrs Guy.

Geography: This half term we will be looking at Maps and Compasses taught by Mrs Guy..

RE: This half term, RE will be focussed on Christianity taught by Mrs Guy..

PSHE: This half term we will be looking at Citizenship.

Science: Science will focus on Seasonal Changes (Autumn and Winter)

Computing: After half term we will be looking at Computing Systems and Networks as well as online safety.

Art: We are developing our drawing and painting skills looking at portraits.

Music: We will be building up to our Christmas Nativity towards the end of the term with Music.

Snack time and Lunch time

The children are still provided with a fruit snack in the morning but it would be beneficial for your child to bring in a healthy snack from home too as lunchtime isn't until 1pm. (oat bar, rice cakes, crackers etc) No sugary snacks (chocolate bars, crisps etc) for snack time please. This year, children will be eating their snack during story time, 5 minutes before then going outside for playtime. They will not be taking their snack outside with them.

Fruit is available for the children first thing when arriving at school (when there is enough for all) as well as at break time at 10.45am. Lunchtime is 1pm and the children will eat together with the rest of the school in class 2. Please do make use of the free school meals that all children in year 1 and 2 get. Chef Tom is cooking up some delicious meals and there is plenty of variety each day.

If there are any questions, queries or comments please do feel free to pop in, dojo me or catch me at the school gate. Class 1's door is always open to you and I am always here to support your child and their needs.

Let's hope this year and Class 1 will be a very happy place to be!

Mrs O'Donoghue and the Class 1 team 😊