Year 1 Spring 2 Curriculum Newsletter 2026

Class teacher: Miss Hillon Senior Teaching Assistant: Mrs Gibson Teaching Assistant: Miss Beattie

Reading

Whole class focus books – Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho
Shanghai China by Meet the World Books

Reading for pleasure class book- James and the giant peach by Roald Dahl.

Little Wandle Reading Books:

The children read the same book three times in a week. The first time we work on decoding (sounding out) the words, the second time we work on prosody which is reading with expression – making the book sound more interesting with our storyteller voice. The third time we look at comprehension. We read the books three times at school because we want to develop the fluency. The more that children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.
Please read as much as you can at home with them too.

Every Friday the children also bring a book for pleasure home, to enjoy being read to them by an adult. These can be kept at home until the following Thursday so that we can swap them for a new one.

Writing

This half term our writing will closely link to our whole class focus books.
The children will be writing:

- Story retells
- Diary extracts
- Posters
- Letters
- Character descriptions
- Setting descriptions
- Fact Files

We will also be working hard to improve our use of capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks, question marks and connectives.

The children will also continue to have daily phonics sessions.

Maths

This half term we will be building on prior maths knowledge learnt last term and applying those skills.
We will also be focusing on:
Place value within 50:

- Counting forwards and backwards to 50
- Place value to 50
- Partitioning numbers to 50 into 10s and 1s
- One more and one less that a given number to 50.
- Using a range of resources to represent numbers to 50.
- Ordering numbers to 50.
- Counting in 2's, 5s and 10s.

Measurement:

- Comparing lengths and heights
- Measuring using nonstandard units
- Measuring using a ruler
- Weight and mass
- Volume and capacity.

The children will also be learning how to apply the skills they have learnt to problem solving and applying problems.

PE

This half term the children will be learning to play 'quick cricket' and 'football'.

PE is every Monday and Wednesday.

Children will need PE kits both days which consists of:

- White t-shirt
- Black joggers
- Grey sweatshirt
- Trainers

Science

This half term we will be following the Kapow scheme and the topic is called 'Animals: Comparing Animals'.
The children will learn to:

- Name and describe the physical features of a range of animals.
- Sort animals into groups based on their similarities and differences.
- Identify characteristics specific to mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.
- Recall the diets of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Geography

This half term will we be following the Kapow scheme and the topic will be called 'What is it like to live in Shanghai?' The children will:
*Give examples of human and physical features.
*Identify features they see on a walk.
*Explain the location of features using some directional language.
*Use an aerial photograph to locate physical and human features.
*Draw simple pictures or symbols on a sketch map.
*Draw compass points.
*Name the continent they live in.
*Use an atlas to locate the UK and China on a world map.
*Use an atlas to locate Europe and Asia on a world map.
*Identify China's physical and human geography.
*Sort physical and human features using photographs.
*Identify physical and human features in images of Shanghai.
*Compare Shanghai to their locality.
*Identify similarities and differences between human and physical features.

ICT/Computing

This half term we will be focusing on Programming
The children will learn to:

- Recognise cause and effect when pressing buttons on a Bee-Bot.
- Discuss and demonstrate how the Bee-Bot works.
- Record video, ensuring everyone is in the shot.
- Give several clear instructions in sequence.
- Program a Bee-Bot to reach a destination.
- Identify and correct mistakes in their programming.

D&T

This half term the children will be constructing their own Windmill.
During this topic the children will:

- Follow design criteria to meet the needs of a user.
- Make a stable structure.
- Make functioning sails/blades that attach to the supporting structure.
- Improve their windmill.

Music

This half term in music we will be looking at Dynamics and the theme will be 'Seaside'. The children will:
*Use appropriate, justified movements to represent dynamics.
*Identify sounds within the music and describe them using adjectives.
*Recreate sounds using voice or body and extend ideas by adding dynamics.
*Create appropriate, original sounds with their voice and body.
*Use instruments to create loud and soft sounds.
*Justify instrument and sound choices.
*Follow instructions during a performance.
*Create and play a musical score that showcases understanding by using dynamic symbols.

Homework

Please read at home with your child most nights, reading the same book more than once to build up the children's fluency and comprehension skills.

If you would like to follow up on our learning at home, you could:

Talk to your child about different parts of the world, perhaps exploring an Atlas or researching the internet about Shanghai to help the children with their new Geography topic.