



Year 1 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

Uncovering the UK

English

As readers, the children will continue to use and apply phonics to help read fluently and in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Test. We follow the Twinkl Phonics scheme to support children in developing strong reading and spelling skills. This structured program builds on previous learning and helps children master phonics through fun, engaging activities. Each week, pupils will learn new sounds, practise blending and segmenting words, and apply their skills in reading and writing. Twinkl Phonics also includes games, songs, and interactive resources to make learning enjoyable and effective.

In Year 1, we use Rhino Readers, part of the Twinkl Phonics scheme, for our guided reading sessions. These fully decodable books are carefully matched to the phonics sounds your child is learning, ensuring they can practise blending and build fluency with confidence. Guided reading sessions focus on developing key skills such as decoding, comprehension, and expression. Children will also discuss the text, answer questions, and explore vocabulary to deepen their understanding and enjoyment of reading.

As part of our writing lessons, children will take part in dictation activities. This means they will listen carefully to sentences read aloud and write them down using the sounds and tricky words they have learned in phonics. Dictation helps children practise spelling, punctuation, and handwriting in context, while building confidence in writing full sentences independently.

Writing

This term, children will enjoy a variety of exciting writing projects:

Transition Skills Unit (4 weeks) – Based on *The Jolly Postman*, we will focus on description and finish by inventing a postcard to London.

Non-Chronological Report – Starting with *The Lighthouse Keeper*, children will innovate by making small changes and then invent their own report about Grace Darling.

Narrative – *Katie Morag* – A journey tale focusing on settings, leading to an invented story called *Katie Morag Around School*.

Narrative – *The Lonely Bear* – A wishing tale focusing on description, where children will change the animal and link their story to our value of Friendship and the Winter season.

Shape Poetry – Exploring onomatopoeia through fun and creative firework poems.

These units will help children develop key skills in description, settings, and structure while encouraging creativity and imagination.

Maths

Year 1 Maths – Number Sense

This term, children will focus on building strong foundations in number sense. They will learn to count, recognise, and compare numbers up to 10, understand part-whole relationships, and explore how numbers can be composed and decomposed in different ways. Through practical activities and games, pupils will develop confidence in addition and subtraction within 10, while also starting to recognise patterns and relationships between numbers. These skills are essential for developing fluency and problem-solving later in the year.

Year 1 Maths – Autumn Term (NCETM)

This term, children will strengthen their understanding of numbers and shapes through practical and engaging activities. Our focus will include:

Counting and Comparing Numbers – recognising and comparing numbers 0–10, counting to and from 20, and learning about decade numbers.

Pattern Counting – exploring patterns when counting from 20 to 100.

Comparing Quantities – understanding part-whole relationships to build strong foundations for addition and subtraction.

Shape Work – recognising, composing, decomposing, and manipulating 2D and 3D shapes to develop spatial awareness.

These units help children build confidence in number sense and problem-solving while preparing them for more complex maths later in the year.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Science

As scientists, they will learn about seasonal changes by observing the differences across the four seasons and understanding how day length varies throughout the year. In addition, they will explore the human body, identifying and drawing its basic parts and linking them to the five senses.

They will work scientifically by asking simple questions and recognising that these can be answered in different ways. To support this, and in conjunction with their Geography learning, they will collect and record data on day length, using it to identify patterns and answer questions about daylight across the seasons.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World - Geography and History

Year 1 History – Why Was Grace Darling Significant?

This term, children will learn about the life of Grace Darling, a brave woman remembered for her heroic rescue during a storm at sea in 1838. Through this unit, pupils will explore why she is considered a significant individual in history and how her actions impacted society and community. They will compare her life to their own experiences and think about what makes someone a hero. This topic helps children understand the importance of courage and kindness in shaping history.

As geographers, they will explore the location of their school within the local area, beginning with understanding its position on 'the street'. They will be immersed in map work, creating their own messy maps and using directional language to describe locations. They will also identify and understand seasonal and daily weather patterns across the UK.

They will be able to name and locate the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, as well as the surrounding seas. They will learn to distinguish between physical and human geographical features within the UK. Using aerial photographs, they will identify landmarks and create maps with basic keys. To consolidate their learning, they will use fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of the school grounds.

Creative Development

Year 1 Art – Drawing & Painting

This term, children will explore the work of artist L.S. Lowry, focusing on his use of lines and shapes. Inspired by his style, pupils will create their own artwork of Grace Darling at the seaside, learning techniques to represent figures and landscapes through drawing and painting. This project will help develop observation skills and creativity while linking to our history topic.

DT

This term, children will work on two exciting projects:

Structures: Free-Standing Structures

Pupils will learn how to design and build strong, stable structures. Their final challenge will be to create a lighthouse, linking to our learning about Grace Darling and the sea.

Textiles: Weaving

Children will explore simple weaving techniques and use them to make a Christmas decoration, developing fine motor skills and creativity.

Music

This term, children will learn to recognise the pulse in music and match movements to it. They will explore percussion instruments, perform simple accompaniments, and begin creating and copying rhythm patterns using basic graphic notation. Pupils will experience a variety of musical styles and traditions, choreographing movements to pieces like Radetzky March and Mattachins, and learning about global dances such as South African Gumboot and North Indian Kathak. They will also prepare and perform songs for Harvest and Christmas celebrations.

Computing

This term, children will explore two exciting topics:

Computing Systems and Networks: Technology Around Us

Pupils will learn to recognise different types of technology in school and understand how to use them safely and responsibly.

Programming A: Moving a Robot

Children will begin programming by giving instructions to make a robot move. They will also learn how to create and format text on a computer, comparing this to writing by hand to understand the benefits and differences of digital tools.

Physical Development (PE)

This term in Year 1 we will be looking at multi-skills. This will be focusing on Agility, Balance and Coordination, recapping on the travelling skills they learnt last year and continue working on sending and receiving skills. We will be using a variety of equipment and looking at a number of different games that children will be playing individually, in pairs and in small teams. The children will also be working on cooperation, team working and confidence building in PE. There will also be a focus on racket sports in the second half of the term.

RE & PSHE

In RE, they will explore the theme: “What do Christians believe about God and Incarnation?” This will lead into discussions about the importance of Christmas within the Christian faith.

Year 1 PSHE and Values

We will explore of values: Resilience and Friendship.

This term begins with our Step Up Days, where children will work together to create a whole-class charter linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), explore our class values, and learn about British Values through fun activities and characters.

We will also discuss belonging to a community, thinking about what it means to be part of a group and how we can contribute positively. On the first day in September, we'll explore being a global citizen, linking to Eco-Schools, Fairtrade, and Rights Respecting Schools.

Throughout the term, children will learn why families and friendships are important and how to respect themselves and others, building strong foundations for positive relationships and personal wellbeing.

French

Our main focus is on speaking and listening, helping children explore new sounds and language structures through songs and games. We will recap previous learning and introduce greetings, introductions, and numbers, while also discovering what going back to school is like in France. Later in the term, we'll learn about Halloween.

Building on this, children will start to write in French and explore cultural traditions such as Jour du Souvenir (Remembrance Day), St. Nicolas, and Noël, alongside more songs and games to make learning fun and engaging.

Homework

We encourage children to read five times per week. In addition, weekly spellings will be sent home every Friday, along with alternate writing and maths homework. Occasionally, children may be asked to show their learning creatively, such as through a model or piece of writing, which can be brought into school to celebrate their knowledge.

Each half term, there will also be a homework menu offering fun, optional activities to choose from. Reading as much as possible is essential—this can include your child's reading book or any other fiction and non-fiction texts, even everyday items like food labels!

Please record any reading in their reading log.