



Year 1 Curriculum Overview

Spring Term

Castles and Rascals



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.

As writers this term, the children will enjoy a range of exciting writing activities:

Narrative – Jack and the Beanstalk

We will explore the classic tale as a Defeating the Monster story, focusing on characterisation. Children will innovate by making small changes to the story and then invent their own version set in castles!

Instructions

Linked to our narrative work, pupils will write clear instructions on How to defeat the giant, then innovate and invent new ideas such as How to put out the Great Fire of London.

Recount

Children will learn to write recounts, starting with the giant's perspective and then moving on to Samuel Pepys and his experiences during the Great Fire of London.

Poetry

We will finish the term with acrostic poems, using adjectives to describe Jack and other characters from the story.

Spellings will continue to be taught through our phonics lessons, following the phonics sounds learnt that week.

Maths

This term, children will develop their number sense, which means building a deep understanding of numbers and how they relate to each other. They will practise skills such as counting, comparing, and ordering numbers, as well as recognising patterns. Through practical activities and problem-solving, pupils will learn strategies for addition and subtraction, helping them become confident and flexible thinkers when working with numbers.

This term, children will deepen their understanding of numbers and develop key calculation skills. Our focus will include:

Composition of Numbers (0–5 and 6–10) – exploring how numbers can be made up of different parts.

Addition and Subtraction – learning and applying facts within 10 to solve problems confidently.

Position and Direction – using language such as left, right, above, and below to describe movement and position.

Time – sequencing events and learning to tell the time to the hour and half hour.

These units help children build strong foundations for future maths learning through practical activities and problem-solving.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Science

As scientists, the children will explore a variety of everyday materials, learning to identify and describe their properties such as hardness, flexibility, and transparency. They will investigate why certain materials are chosen for specific purposes and carry out simple experiments to test their ideas.

They will then focus on Seasonal Change. The children will observe changes across the four seasons, focusing on weather patterns and how daylight length varies. They will learn how these changes affect the world around us and record their observations over time to build a deeper understanding of seasonal cycles.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World - Geography and History

This term, children will learn about important events from the past that happened before anyone alive today can remember. We will focus on the Great Fire of London and discover the role of Samuel Pepys in recording this historic event.

We will also explore significant places in our local area with a visit to Taunton Castle. The children will find out what life was like in castles, learning about knights, moats, drawbridges, and kings—always a favourite topic! These experiences will link to our English work, inspiring the children to write exciting sentences based on what they have learned.

Creative Development

As artists the children will be looking at the work of Matisse. We will be looking at different types of paint and experimenting with water and paints to alter the thickness of the paint that we are using. We will experiment with colour mixing, using both chalk pastels and paints and be able to talk about how we made different colours. We will be then making our own version of the Great Fire of London using these techniques.

As design technologists this term, children will be learning about mechanisms, focusing on sliders and levers. They will explore how these simple mechanisms work and use them creatively to design and make their own pop-up book based on the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. This project will help develop their understanding of movement in design while encouraging imagination and storytelling through interactive pages.

As musicians, children will learn how sounds are created using voices and instruments. They will listen to pieces like Flight of the Bumblebee and William Tell Overture to understand how dynamics, tempo, and timbre bring music to life. Pupils will sing simple songs with expressive actions, explore lyrics as inspiration for

compositions, and work in groups to create short sound sequences that tell a story or represent a character. They will also learn to follow musical instructions and invent their own notation to represent sequences of sounds.

Computing

This term, Year 1 will be exploring two exciting topics in computing:

Creating Media: Digital Painting

Children will learn how to use digital tools to create artwork, comparing this with traditional methods. Linking to our Great Fire of London topic, they will experiment with colours and techniques to produce their own digital paintings.

Data and Information: Grouping Data

Pupils will develop their problem-solving skills by writing simple algorithms and programs for floor robots. They will predict what will happen when their programs run, helping them understand how computers follow instructions.

Physical Development

This term the children will be looking at Gymnastics and Dance. In gymnastics they will be focusing on basic shapes, rolls, balances and jumps. They will learn the correct techniques and how to perform these safely. They will also be looking to follow mini routines that will include some low equipment. They will have the opportunity to put the skills they have learnt into pairs and small group routines. In dance they will be following a story based on their Spring Term topic. The story will allow them to follow a set of movements to form a routine. There will also be the opportunity for the children to develop their own dance whilst following a piece of music and selecting the movements they feel would work, this will be done in pairs and small groups.

Please ensure your child has their fully labelled P.E kit in school at all times.

RE & PSHE

In R.E Spring 1: Who is Jesus and Why Is He Important to Some People? We will learn who Jesus is and why he is important to some people. We will explore what Christians believe about Jesus, how people saw him in the past, and what people think about him today. We will also learn that different people believe different things and that kindness is important for everyone.

Spring 2: What Good News Did Jesus Bring to Christians? We will learn about the good news that Christians believe Jesus brings. We will find out what this good news is, who it is for, and how people show it in their lives. We will learn that Christians get their ideas from the Bible and show their beliefs through their actions.

In PSHE we will be exploring two important themes: Respect and Forgiveness, helping children understand how these values can be shown in everyday life.

We will also take part in Safety Week, where pupils will learn how to stay safe in different situations. This includes water safety sessions, understanding risks and hazards, learning about stranger danger, and discussing safe relationships and online relationships. These lessons will give children practical strategies to keep themselves safe while building confidence and awareness.

French

Our key focus in French is on speaking and listening to explore new language structures and sounds. We are using whole sentences and we will build on our Reception and Autumn Term learning as we start to enjoy new songs and games. We will apply all our learning as we find out about France and what it is like to join in with their celebrations of Épiphanie - La Fête des Rois, Mardi Gras and Easter.

Our key focus in French is on speaking and listening but we are starting to write as we explore language structures and sounds via songs and games. We will introduce French vowel sounds and use our colours learning and apply it to Mardi Gras and Easter in France and other French speaking countries.

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.