



Address: High Street, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6BT

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr A.Sunner

Head of School: Mr J.Downs

Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Year 1 parents/carers,

Year 1 Curriculum Letter - Autumn (2nd half)

Message from the teachers

A huge well done to all the children for quickly settling into year 1 and for trying their best every day to achieve their learning goals. We have enjoyed getting to know you and we are so excited to continue doing so.

Thank you to the parents/carers for attending the parents' evenings earlier this week. It was a great opportunity to catch up with you all. This letter will briefly outline some of the lessons that year 1 will enjoy exploring through the second half of the autumn term.

Our Core Values

Happiness: we spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: we care and are kind to all.

Respect: we treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: we work well with everyone.

Year 1 Staffing

Redwood class teacher: Miss Wilcox

Ash class teacher: Miss McAuliffe

Year 1 learning support assistants: Miss Dempsey and Miss Perez

Communication

Please feel free to arrange a meeting should you wish to speak to one of the teachers in person. Alternatively, you can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

Redwoodclass@harefieldinfant.com

Ashclass@harefieldinfant.com

Homework

Each child will receive a printed copy of the homework, along with the answers every Friday. Please return the homework to your class teacher on the following Friday. Every Friday we will have a spelling test, which will consist of 5 words from the homework that week.

As mentioned in the previous curriculum letter, we have been using the 'Read Write Inc' approach to teaching early reading and phonics. Every Monday your child will be given a phonics book to practice reading at home. Please return the book to school on Friday of the same week.

Autumn Term Learning

Next half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

English

Year 1 will be reading Jack and The Beanstalk. They will be retelling this story in their own words focusing on using descriptive words to describe the characters. Later in the term, they will be looking at Losing Tales. We will be using Knuffle Bunny as our core text and the children will write their own losing tales, using the same structure as Knuffle Bunny.



Mathematics

Ron and Jo have some stickers.

I have fewer than 4 stickers, Jo has the rest.

We have 10 stickers in total.

Ron

Jo

How many stickers could they each have?
How do you know?

In maths this half term, Year 1 will be learning about addition and subtraction. They will learn their number bonds to 10, learn how to write number sentences and learn how to solve both addition and subtraction problems. Later in the term, year 1 will be introduced to Geometry where they will learn about various shapes.

Physical Education

P.E. will be taking place in Year 1 on a Monday and Thursday. Please ensure you send your child to school wearing their P.E. kits on these days.

The outdoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Invasion Games'. Children will learn different ways of travelling, including moving backwards, sidestepping and changing direction. They will apply these different methods of travelling as they move onto travelling with a ball.

The indoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Dance: Starry Skies'. The children will experiment with dancing with objects and pretending to dance with them. They make shapes with objects, their bodies and others, hold them and move in them. The children copy and develop dance patterns of their own to the music. The unit draws upon exciting stimuli that link well to cross-curricular themes, including fireworks and astronauts.

Music

We are very fortunate to have a specialist music teacher in school every Tuesday to teach Year 1 music lessons, focusing on singing and percussion.



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Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

The P.S.H.E unit 'Celebrating Difference' will explore the similarities and differences between people. Year 1 will explore what bullying means and will understand the importance of telling someone they trust if they or someone else is being bullied or feeling unhappy.

In **Science**, year 1 will be learning about materials, and then will use this knowledge to sort them into different categories – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **History**, year 1 will be learning about 'Significant Explorers'. In this unit, children explore why some people are considered to be significant before going on to learn about some significant explorers – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.






In **Religious Education**, the children will be learning about 'Gifts and Giving'. They will be thinking about different types of gifts we can give and why giving is important by exploring the Christian celebration Christmas and the Islamic festival Eid-al-Fitr – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Please feel free to contact us via the class email accounts should you have any questions over the term ahead.

Yours faithfully

Ms McAuliffe and Miss Wilcox
Year 1 teachers

Key Vocabulary

- **material** - what an object is made from 
- **soft** - a material that can easily change shape or is gentle to touch 
- **hard** - not easily broken or bent 
- **shiny** - a smooth surface that can reflect light easily 
- **dull** - not clear, bright or shiny 

rock



- **heavy** - difficult to lift
- **light** - easy to lift



- **rough** - an uneven surface to touch 
- **smooth** - an even surface to touch 

solid



liquid




- **melt** - when a solid changes to a liquid 

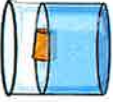
- **freeze** - when a liquid changes to a solid 

ice - when water freezes

- **independent variable** (what will change) - the type of material used. 

- **dependent variable** (what will be measured) - children will observe whether the material absorbs the water or not. 

- **controlled variables** (what is kept the same) - the size of the material, the amount of water used and the time before checking to see if the water has been absorbed. 

- **float** - when an object stays on top of the water 

- **sink** - when an object falls to the bottom of the water 

- **absorb** - when liquid is taken in by a material

Knowledge

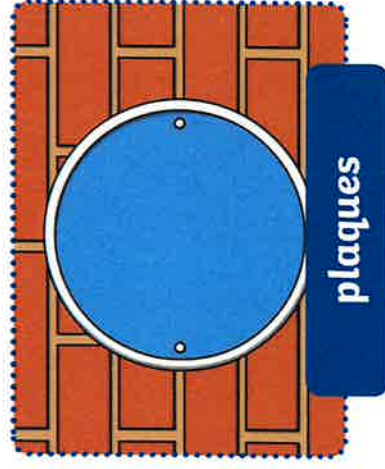
- Objects are made from different materials.
- Materials can have different textures.
- There are different types of rocks.
- Rocks come in different shapes, sizes and textures.
- Rocks can also be used to build things such as walls.
- Some objects can be made from different materials.
- When water freezes, it turns to ice.
- When ice melts, it turns to water.
- Some materials float in water (stay at the top).
- Some materials sink in water (fall to the bottom).

Key Vocabulary	
achievement	An achievement is something challenging that a person does well.
astronaut	A person who is trained to travel in space.
equipment	Objects that are needed for an activity, such as exploring.
expedition	A journey taken for a reason, such as exploring somewhere or something.
explorer	Someone who goes on a journey to find out about somewhere or something new.
polar	Polar describes anything about (or near) the North Pole or South Pole.
significant	Important and worth knowing about.

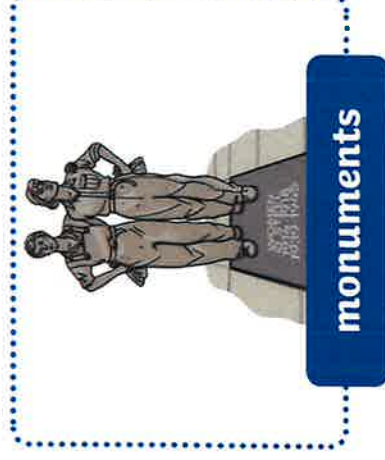


Remembering Significant People

Significant people are people who have made important **achievements**. They are often remembered in different ways.



plaques



monuments



stamps

Who?				
	<p>He was an explorer who travelled for nearly 30 years. He learnt about lots of different places.</p>	<p>He was one of the first explorers to reach the North Pole.</p>	<p>He became the first person to walk on the moon. A team of people at NASA made this happen.</p>	<p>She was the first woman to ski across Antarctica on her own.</p>
When?	around 1325 - 1353	1909	1969	2012

Key Vocabulary

Christmas	Christmas is the time when Christians remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the son of God.
Christmas Day	Christmas Day is celebrated by Christians all over the world on 25th December every year. It is a special holiday when most offices, shops and all schools are closed.
Nativity	A play that tells the story of the birth of Jesus.



The Nativity Story

The Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she was going to have a baby called Jesus and that he would be God's son.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. A kind innkeeper in Bethlehem let Mary and Joseph stay in his stable for the night and Jesus was born there.

An angel appeared to some shepherds and told them that the son of God had been born in Bethlehem. The shepherds walked to Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus.

Some Wise Men saw a star in the sky and knew that it meant a king had been born. They followed the star. They went past the palace of King Herod who asked the men to tell him where the baby was. The Wise Men found baby Jesus but they received a message from God warning them not to tell Herod so they didn't.

Herod began to search for Jesus. He ordered that all baby boys in Bethlehem be killed. However, after a warning in a dream, Mary and Joseph travelled to Egypt with Jesus and he was safe.

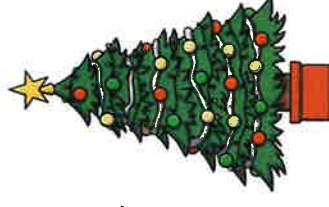


Christmas Traditions

The story of the birth of Jesus is very important to Christians. Many believe he was a gift from God.

People celebrate **Christmas** in lots of different ways and these include acting out a **nativity**, carol singing, putting up and decorating **Christmas** trees and hanging wreaths. Many families get together for a special meal on **Christmas Day**.

Many Christians give gifts at **Christmas** to show their love for one another. After his birth, the Wise Men gave Jesus special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were the kinds of gifts given to kings at that time. They were very valuable and were probably the first **Christmas** presents.



Key Vocabulary

Eid Al-Fitr	Eid Al-Fitr is a special festival which celebrates the end of Ramadan. It lasts for three days.
Eid Mubarak	'Have a blessed Eid.'
fasting	Fasting is a period of time when you do not eat or drink.
Qur'an	The Muslim holy book.
Ramadan	A holy month for many Muslims. It is often marked by fasting.
Zakat Al-Fitr	A type of charity which many Muslims give either during Ramadan or Eid Al-Fitr.

Ramadan

Ramadan is a very special time for many Muslims. It celebrates the time when the **Qur'an** was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). It is celebrated at a different time every year because Islam uses a lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon.

During **Ramadan**, many Muslims **fast** during daylight hours. Often, they go to the mosque to read the **Qur'an**.

Many Muslims **fast** during Ramadan because it reminds them of people in the world who have less than they do.

People who are young, elderly or ill don't have to **fast**.

Muslims will often have a meal called Suhur before sunrise and another called Iftar after sunset.

Zakat Al-Fitr is often given at this time. Many Muslims give food or money to help those in need.



Eid Al-Fitr

Eid Al-Fitr is the time when many Muslims celebrate the end of **Ramadan**. It lasts for three days and is a very special time.

During **Eid Al-Fitr**, Muslims may give thanks to Allah (God) for giving them the strength to **fast** during **Ramadan**.

It is also a time for many Muslims to think about others.

Eid Al-Fitr is celebrated in lots of different ways. Many families go to the mosque to pray. Gifts are often given and are usually opened after the morning prayer and people can exchange cards that say '**Eid Mubarak!**'