

Tuesday 25th February 2025

Dear Year 1 parents/carers,

Year 1 Curriculum Letter – Spring (2nd half)

Message from the teachers

Welcome back! The next half term is full of exciting school events to look forward to such as World Book Day, Red Nose Day, the Spring concert and the Easter bonnet parade. This letter will briefly outline some of the learning that year 1 will enjoy exploring through the second spring term in the lead up to the Easter holidays.



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 now 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.

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.

Spring Term Learning

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

English

Year 1 will be reading *Avocado Baby*, a story about a boy who grows super strength because he eats so many avocados. We will use this idea to write 'conquer the villain' stories, where a main character gains a superpower from food and saves the day. We will then use the same book to write a persuasive advert, selling a super food that gives superpowers!



Mathematics

In maths this half term, we will be revisiting place value, this time extending the children's understanding of number to 50. We will also be introducing the language of measurements used for length & height (cm and m), mass (g and kg) and volume (ml and l).

Use the number cards to complete the sentences.



_____ is 1 less than _____

_____ is 1 more than _____

There's more detail about what we will be learning on the White Rose website:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources?year=year-1-new&subject=maths>

How many different ways can you find?

Science

In Science topic this half term is called 'Caring for the Planet' – attached is a knowledge organiser with further information on what the children will be learning about in this unit.



History

The History unit this half term is called 'toys' – attached is a knowledge organiser with further information on what the children will be learning about in this unit.

Religious Education

'Easter and Surprises' is our topic for Religious Education this half term - attached is a knowledge organiser with further information on what the children will be learning about in this unit.

Art

Our Art unit this half term is called 'Colour Chaos'. This unit will teach the children about choosing, using and mixing their own colours to create quality art work.

Physical Education

P.E. will be taking place in Year 1 on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please ensure you send your child to school wearing their P.E. kits on these days. This half term Redwood Class will be attending Forest School on a Monday, and therefore only doing PE on a Thursday. Please ensure you child has the appropriate clothing and footwear.



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Executive Head Teacher: Mr A.Sunner

Head of School: Mr J.Downs

The outdoor P.E. unit this term is focused on bat and ball skills. The children will practice their striking and fielding skills using tennis rackets and cricket bats, with the aim to use their skills in a simplified batting game.

Indoor P.E. this term is called 'Dance: The Seasons'. The children will learn about different seasonal festivals that take place through the year, and the types of dances associated to them. They will then learn and perform some seasonal dances of their own.



Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

"Healthy me" is the PSHE unit for Year 1 this half term. We will discuss the healthy choices that people can make such as having a healthy, balanced diet; keeping fit by doing exercise and sleeping regularly; and the importance of keeping clean. The children will discuss the use of medicine for when they feel unwell and how to use them safely. They will also be reminded about keeping safe on the roads by following the Green Cross Code.

Music

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



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

Yours faithfully

Miss McAuliffe and Miss Wilcox
Year 1 teachers

Key Vocabulary

- **Earth** – the planet that we live on



- **plant** – a living thing that usually grows in soil



- **animal** – a living creature



- **helpful** – an action that is useful



- **harmful** – an action that causes hurt or damage



Knowledge

- Everyone should look after the planet.
- Some actions are helpful for the Earth.
- Some actions are harmful for the Earth.
- Looking after the planet helps care for humans, other animals and plants.

- **material** – what an object is made from



- **recycle** – to change rubbish into a material that can be used again



- **reuse** – to use again or use more than once



Key Facts

How long have toys existed?	Toys have existed for thousands of years. They were made out of the materials that were available at the time. Even stones and string have been made into toys.
What were toys made of during the Victorian age?	Toys were mainly made of wood, paper and metal during the Victorian age.
What toys did Victorian children play with?	Rich Victorian children played with toys such as clockwork trains, rocking horses, tea sets and dolls. Poorer children played with homemade toys such as peg dolls, wooden boats and rags stuffed with sawdust to make balls or toy animals.
What are modern toys made of?	Modern toys are mainly made of plastic. This is because it is usually safer and easier to make things with.
How are modern toys different?	Many modern toys use electricity to work. Computers and consoles were invented in the 20th century .

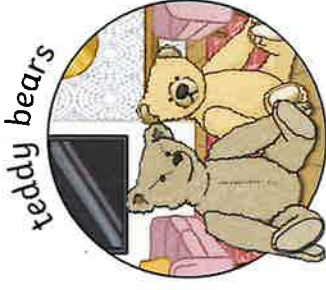
To look at all the planning resources linked to the Toys unit, [click here](#).



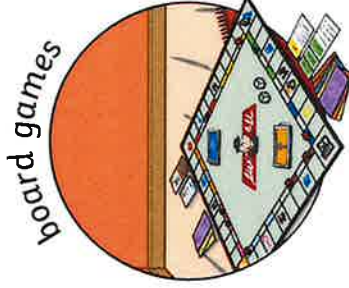
dolls



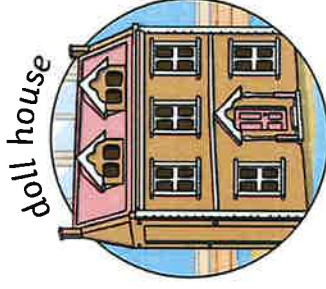
Meccano



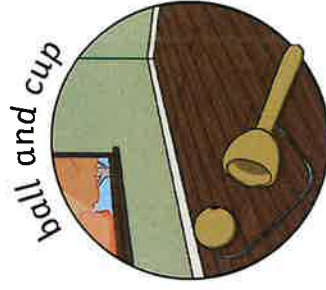
teddy bears



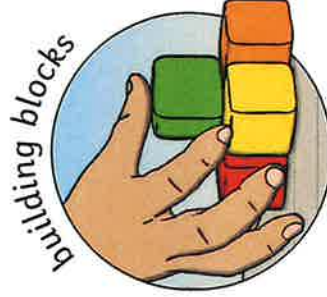
board games



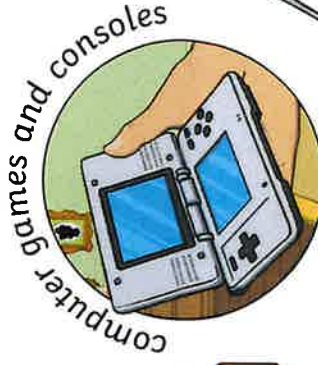
doll house



ball and cup



building blocks



computer games and consoles



Toys

Key Vocabulary	
Victorian	The time of Queen Victoria's reign. 1837-1901.
20th century	The 20th century was 1900-1999.
21st century	We are in the 21st century . It started in the year 2000 and will end in 2099.
wooden toys	Lots of toys were made of wood. Boats, train sets and cup and ball were all made of wood. Some toys are still made of wood.
paper toys	Some toys, like paper windmills, were made out of paper.
metal toys	Toy soldiers and some spinning tops were made out of metal.
plastic toys	Most modern toys are made of plastic. Toy soldiers, dolls and ride-on cars are usually made of plastic.
modern	Things made now or recently.
the past	Objects and things that happened before now.

19th century

Toys: wooden dolls, wooden doll houses, tea sets, ball and cup, spinning top, toys soldiers, leather footballs.

**20th century**

Toys: teddy bears, Barbie dolls, Action Man, electronic toys, computers, games consoles.

**21st century**

Toys: handheld games consoles, virtual reality.



Key Vocabulary	
Easter	The oldest and most important Christian festival.
Christians	People who follow the religion of Christianity.
Jesus	The son of God.
resurrection	When Jesus came back to life.
disciples	The twelve followers of Jesus.
symbolise	When something stands for something else.
betray	To be unfaithful or break a promise to someone.
Holy Communion	A special service in church, where Christians share bread and wine.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the week leading up to **Easter**. The **Easter** story is very important to **Christians** as it reminds them of **Jesus**' death and celebrates his **resurrection**. There are four important days during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and **Easter** Sunday.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. **Christians** remember when **Jesus** rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was welcomed by people waving palm leaves and placing them on the ground in front of him. Palm leaves **symbolise** goodness and well-being.



Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, the story of the Last Supper is remembered. 'Maundy' comes from a word that means 'command'. At his last supper, **Jesus** told his **disciples** to love one another. **Jesus** knew that this would be his last supper and that one of his **disciples** (Judas), would **betray** him.

The Last Supper

During the Last Supper, **Jesus** shared some bread and wine with his disciples. **Jesus** said the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. During **Holy Communion**, **Christians** re-enact this special moment from the Last Supper.

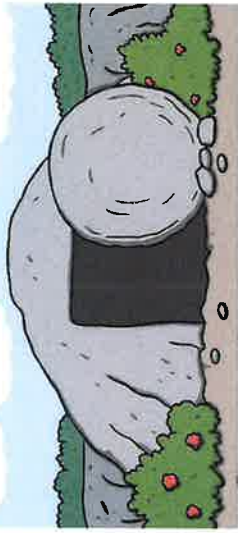


Key Vocabulary	
crucified	Put to death on a cross.
sins	Bad actions.
tomb	A place cut into rock or underground, where the dead are buried.
eternal	Lasting forever.
heaven	Christians believe this is where God lives and where good people go after death.
bible	The Christian holy book.
hymns	Religious songs.

Good Friday

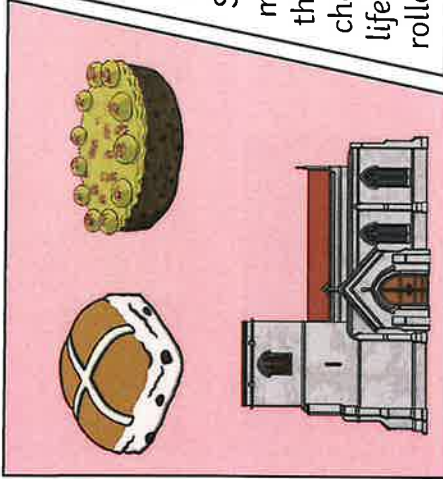
On Good Friday, **Christians** remember the day that **Jesus** was **crucified**. Leaders in Jerusalem were jealous that people listened to **Jesus** and so they had him **crucified**. **Christians** believe it is 'good', because **Jesus** showed great love and died for the **sins** of others. When he died, his body was put in a stone **tomb**.

On **Easter Sunday**, **Christians** celebrate **Jesus' resurrection**. The **resurrection** of **Jesus** gives **Christians** the promise of **eternal** life in **heaven**.



A Surprise

Some of **Jesus' friends** went to visit his **tomb** on the Sunday after he died. They were surprised to find it empty. After his **resurrection** **Jesus** visited his **disciples** before going up to **heaven** to live with God.



Many **Christians** go to church at **Easter**. Parts of the **Bible** are read and special **hymns** are sung. Hot cross buns are eaten. The cross reminds people that **Jesus** died on the cross. Many **Christians** send **Easter** cards. Simnel cake is eaten. It is a fruit cake with eleven marzipan balls on the top. These represent all of the **disciples** except Judas. Eggs are painted and chocolate eggs are given. The eggs **symbolise** new life and are the same shape as the rock that was rolled in front of **Jesus' tomb**.

Easter Traditions