

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Year 1 parents/carers,

Year 1 Curriculum Letter – Spring (1st half)

Message from the teachers

Happy New Year! We hope you had an amazing Christmas break and are looking forward to all that 2026 has to offer. This letter will briefly outline some of the lessons that year 1 will enjoy exploring through this spring 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 Churchill

Year 1 learning support assistants: Miss Perez and Mrs Anielska

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 receives a printed copy of the homework, along with the answers every Friday. Please return the homework to your class teacher on the following Friday.

We use the 'Read Write Inc' approach to teaching early reading and phonics. Every Friday your child will be given a phonics book to practice reading at home. Please return the book to school on the following Friday.

Forest School

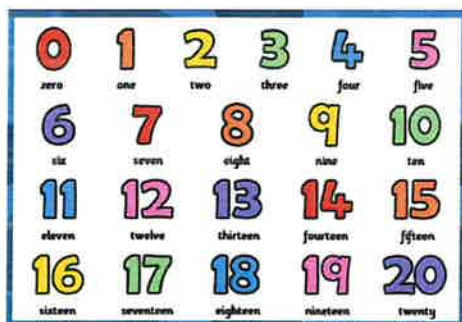
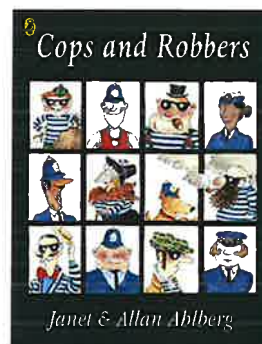
Both Year 1 classes will be having Forest School this half term. This will take place every other week on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has their forest school gear in a named bag.

Spring Term Learning

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

English

Our core text this term is 'Cops and Robbers' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. This is a great story about the policemen of London who try to find a gang of sneaky thieves. The children will use this to inspire their own finding tales, where they will write about a character who has to follow a trail of clues.



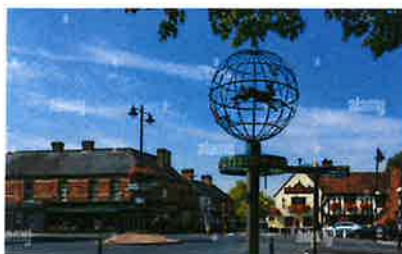
Mathematics

Year 1 will be working with numbers up to 20 in maths lessons throughout the spring term. They will grow confident in counting and ordering numbers, and then continue to add and subtract numbers within 20 with a particular focus on bridging through ten, e.g.

$7 + 5 =$ 7 and 3 bond to 10, and add 2 more to make 12

Science

In science this term, year 1 will be learning about plants. The children will have the opportunity to plant their own seed and use their observation skills as the plant grows. Later, children will be learning about Animals where they will sort animals based on their groups and learn about their diets - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.



Geography

'Our local area' is the focus for Geography in year 1 this term. The children will be exploring the key features of the local area- attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Physical Education

P.E. will be taking place in Year 1 on a Tuesday and Thursday (every other week, alternating with Forest School). 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 'Attacking & Defending', where the children will learn about attacking skills, such as passing a ball to another player and dodging defenders.



Indoor P.E. this term is called 'Circuit Training'. The children will be working on building on their overall fitness through a circuit of eight activities, each of which is based on a different skill. Fun practices are used each week before the children are introduced to two of the circuit activities. Towards the end of the unit, the children will then complete a full circuit.

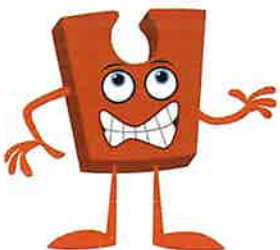


Religious Education

Caring for Others is the R.E. topic for Year 1 this spring term. The children will discuss how they can be kind to others and the importance of being kind. They will have the opportunity to read stories from different faiths and learn about religious festivals and practices - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Music

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



Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Year 1 will be thinking about their dreams and goals in PSHE this spring term. The children will be introduced to ways of keeping motivated when facing challenges, learn about resilience and not giving up when something is difficult and work with a team to achieve a common goal. The unit will conclude by reflecting on what dreams and goals the children have for the year ahead and in their futures by creating a 'Dream Garden'.

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

Yours faithfully

Ms Churchill and Ms Wilcox
Year 1 teachers

Animals

Key Vocabulary	
amphibian	Amphibians live in water as babies. When they grow older, they can live on land and in water.
bird	Birds all have a beak, feathers, two legs and wings.
fish	Fish live and breathe under water. All fish have gills and fins and most have scales.
mammal	Mammals grow hair or fur on their bodies.
reptile	Reptiles have dry scales covering their bodies.
carnivore	Animals that eat other animals (meat) are carnivores .
herbivore	Animals that eat plants are herbivores .
omnivore	Animals that eat both plants and other animals are omnivores .

Amphibians			
			
frog	toad	newt	axolotl
Birds			
			
penguin	chicken	owl	robin
Fish			
			
goldfish	tuna	shark	seahorse
Mammals			
			
human	dolphin	dog	sheep
Reptiles			
			
lizard	turtle	snake	alligator

Key Questions

- What is a _____?
- Where do _____ live?
- What do _____ eat?
- Are there any pets that are _____?
- What animal group does a _____ belong to?
- What features do _____ have?
- How do you know a _____ is _____?

National curriculum links

- Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
- **Working scientifically** – Identifying and classifying.

National curriculum links

- Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.
- **Working scientifically** – Identifying and classifying.

Key Vocabulary	
compass	A special tool that helps you know which direction you are facing.
direction	Where someone or something is pointing or moving.
fieldwork	Using maps to go out and about to get a practical understanding of something.



The Compass	
A compass has four main directions , which are north, east, south and west. Part of the compass (the needle) will always point north. You then have to work out which direction you are facing depending on where north is.	
Safely Exploring Your Local Area through Fieldwork	
Be safe! Listen to instructions and follow what an adult is asking you to do.	Be aware of the roads. Keep to pavements at all times. Only cross roads when you are told to do so by an adult and stay with your partner.
Be polite. Move to one side of the pavement if other people are walking. Remember that you are setting an example to others when you are out and about.	Be observant. Follow any signposts that may be helpful on the walk.
Use your map to follow the route. See if you can spot any familiar symbols !	Look, listen and smell. Use your senses to observe the area.

Key Vocabulary

map	A specially drawn picture of a place from above.
symbol	A picture that represents a word or group of words. They are used on maps to make things clear and easy to find.
house	A building that people live in

Houses

You might see lots of different types of **houses** in your local area. Some of these could be...



houses/housing



detached



semi-detached



terraced



cottage



bungalow



flats



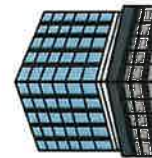
caravan

Buildings in the Local Area

Buildings in the local area could be used for lots of different things. Some of these could be...



school



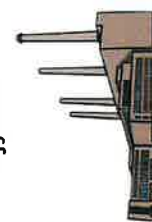
offices



railway station



leisure centre



factory



hospital

Map Symbols

To make it easier, **maps** use **symbols** instead of words so that you can find things quickly. Here are some **symbols** you might recognise.



parking



nature reserve



campsite



place of worship



motorway



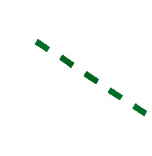
golf course



cycle trail



train station



footpath



main road

Caring for Others

Key Vocabulary	
Raksha Bandan	A Hindu festival (usually celebrated in August) that celebrates the love between brothers and sisters.
gurdwara	A special building for Sikhs and they go there to worship.
langar	A community kitchen in the gurdwara that shares free meals.
langar hall	The place inside a Gurdwara where people can sit together and eat a free meal.
Samaritan	At the time, this was a person from a place called Samaria. Now, it is a person who helps other people.
Bible	The holy scripture for Christians. It has lots of stories and lessons which help Christians lead their lives.
Levite	A person who worked in a temple in Jerusalem.

Raksha Bandhan (Hindu Dharma)

In the **Raksha Bandhan** festival, sisters tie a Rakhi (bracelet) around their brother's wrist. The Rakhi means protection from evil. After this, the sisters say a prayer and put a mark (called a tilak) on their brother's forehead. The brothers then make a promise to look after their sisters.



Langar (Sikhi)

Each **gurdwara** has a **langar** and a **langar hall**. The **langar** meal is vegetarian so that people from all religions are able to eat it. This is because Sikhs believe everyone is equal and should be treated the same. Everyone takes it in turns to prepare, cook and serve the meal, then clear up afterwards.



The Good Samaritan (Christianity)

The Good **Samaritan** is a **Bible** story told by Jesus. It tells us to be kind to others, regardless of who they are.

One day a Jewish man went for a walk. Along the way, two bandits stole his belongings and clothes, beat him up and left him by the side of the road.

A priest and a **Levite** walked past him and both of these people ignored the dying man.

A **Samaritan** walked along the road and saw the dying man. **Samaritans** and Jewish people did not usually get along at the time but the **Samaritan** helped the man. He gave him the cloak from his back, put the man on his donkey and took him to an inn. He bought expensive supplies to heal the man and paid for him to stay at the inn while he got better.



Caring for Others

Key Vocabulary

the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)	The founder of Islam. He is seen by Muslims as God's messenger.
prophet	A person who is thought to be a messenger of God.
sacrifice	Giving up something important. This often benefits others.
consequence	Things that happen as a result of something that somebody says or does. Consequences can be good or bad.

The Monkey King (Buddhism)



A long time ago, a monkey king lived in a forest full of fruit (including mangoes). He ordered his monkeys to pick and hide the mangoes so nobody else could have them. However, the biggest and juiciest mango stayed hidden. That night, a strong wind shook the mango loose. It fell into a river and was swept to another land, where a human king took a bite of it. He wanted more so he took his men to the forest.

All the monkeys were asleep in the mango tree, apart from one. She ran to the other monkeys to wake them, but she was followed. The king announced that the mango tree was his now and anyone in it would be killed. The monkey king said he would protect his tribe, which made the human king angry. He ordered his men to kill the monkeys. To escape, the monkeys had to cross a river by using their king's back as a bridge. The monkey king was in pain and dying. The human king saw this **sacrifice** and was touched. He ordered his soldiers to help the monkey king down. The human king promised to become a good and kind ruler. A **consequence** of this was that all creatures were allowed to share in the forest fruit.

Be My Guest (Islam)

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) asked Abu Talha (one of his close friends) to take a poor and hungry man home and to feed and look after him. Abu Talha went home and told his wife what **the Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) had asked him to do. His wife told him that they only had enough food for their children. They sent their children to bed and made a meal for the visitor using the food they had. To save the visitor from feeling sad, they turned down the lamp so that he couldn't see that their plates did not have any food on them. Abu Talha and his wife made a **sacrifice**. They did not eat and put the needs of the poor man ahead of their own.