

# Year 1 Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians

Happy new year and welcome back after a well-earned holiday.

Our new topic is Marvellous Materials. This unit provides opportunities to learn how to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. The children will learn how to identify and name a variety of everyday materials. The children will describe the properties of these materials.

## Promoting British Values



### Democracy

We will discuss job roles and explore new how they contribute to the well-being of everyone.

### Rule of Law

We will learn how the law protects individuals' rights and freedoms. We will discuss laws promoted by Safer Internet Day, and how this help to keep us safe online environment where children. We will look at what children can do if they do not feel safe.

### Individual Liberty

Individuals have the liberty to support charities or causes of their choice. We will look at the freedom to donate money, time, or resources to organisations to help others.

### Tolerance

Learning about the Chinese New Year emphasises respect, understanding, and acceptance of the diverse cultural practices and traditions. It contributes to building bridges between communities and fostering a spirit of unity and harmony during this significant cultural celebration.

### Mutual Respect

We will look at the work of Christian Aid and Islamic Relief. We will discuss their shared values of compassion, justice, and the commitment to addressing poverty and social injustices. We will explore how both organisations aim to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

## Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)

### Spiritual

The children will learn to express their creativity through art and music, providing opportunities for children to express their feelings and ideas.

### Moral

The children will understand that demonstrating love and compassion through their actions breaks down barriers, overcome prejudices, and extend a helping hand to those in need, just as the Good Samaritan did.

### Social

They will learn how to show respect for one another through caring for their community.

### Cultural

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The children will explore and celebrate different cultural events, holidays, and traditions. This will involve learning about festivals from various cultures.

## Spiritual Thinkers

This term, the topic is 'How and why do we care for others?' The children will explore their own reflections, cultural perspectives, and community engagement. They will develop a holistic understanding of the importance of caring for others.

## World Interfaith Harmony Week

The children will be provided with opportunities to promote mutual understanding and dialogue among people of different faiths and beliefs, encouraging peaceful coexistence and cooperation.



## Readers

As Readers, children will focus on developing their phonic knowledge as a main strategy for reading words. They will also start to use VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Sequence) to support their reading comprehension. Our core story this half term will be The Elves and The Shoemaker.

## Writers

As writers, the children will continue to develop their handwriting skills through regular practice. They will focus on basic sentence structure, such as using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They will learn how to write an informal letter. They will create a non-fiction text. The children will write instructions on how to make a shoe linking it to their core story.

## Mathematicians

As Mathematicians, the children will learn to add and subtract with numbers up to 20. They will use their prior knowledge of number bonds to know that 2 one-digit numbers can be added by using the 'make 10' strategy. The children will be introduced to the concept of comparing lengths using everyday objects. These activities may involve comparing the lengths of pencils, crayons, or other classroom items. Mathematical vocabulary like "shorter" and "longer" are introduced.



## NSPCC – Number Day

The theme for NSPCC Number Day is odd and even. You can dress as oddly or as evenly as you like!

We are asking for a donation of £1.

The money we raise could help the NSPCC run its **Speak out Stay safe programme** to help children understand what abuse is and what to do if they are scared or worried.

## Scientists

As Scientists, the children will continue to observe seasonal changes and the weather. They will learn about everyday materials by identifying and naming the materials. Opportunities will be provided

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to distinguish between an object and a material.

## Computer Scientists

The children will develop keyboard skills. They will be studying Data Handling which involves making and comparing different groups, reading information and answering questions.

**Safer Internet Day** will take place on Tuesday 6 February 2024.

The main goal of Safer Internet Day is to raise awareness and start a conversation about online safety, particularly with young people who may not be fully equipped with how to stay safe when using the internet.

The aim is to make a safer and better internet for everyone, children and adults alike!

## Personal, Social and Health Education

### Safety and The Changing Body

The children will learn how to respond to adults in different situations, and to distinguishing appropriate and inappropriate physical contact. They will gain an understanding of what to do if lost and how to call the emergency services. The children will have opportunities to identify hazards in the home. They will research people in the community who keep them safe.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing My Happy Mind

### Celebrate

During this module, the children will learn all about the importance of character strengths.

Key learning points include:

- We all have character strengths that we use in different situations.
- What the different character strengths are and what they mean.
- How children can use these strengths to be better
- How to practise using the different strengths
- We would encourage you to use this language with your child at home when discussing and spotting their strengths!

## Geographers

As Geographers, the children will continue to study the school environment and local area for changes. They will make links with weather patterns and seasonal change, recording temperature, rainfall and daylight hours. The children will identify the four countries of UK plus 4 compass points.

## Design Technologists

Children will learn how to make a shoe using different techniques for attaching two pieces of materials and comparing the methods.

## Drama

As actors, pupils will learn what is meant by drama and how the skills learnt in these lessons can help with things outside of a school environment.

They will learn how to emote by using their voice, face, and body. Once they have learnt how to emote themselves, pupils will look at reading emotions in others.

During the final part of the half term pupils will learn about the technical names for the stage.

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## Health and Fitness advisors

PE will focus on volleyball and dance.

In volleyball, they will learn how to throw and catch. The children will begin with basic throwing and catching activities. They will use soft, lightweight balls and practise tossing the ball to a partner and catching it, helping to further develop hand-eye coordination.

In dance, they will begin by discussing different animals and their characteristic movements. The children will mimic the movements of animals like elephants, birds, frogs, and butterflies. This activity helps them explore various motions and gestures. This will develop their performing movements and skills confidently and safely.

## Attendance and punctuality

We will promote the importance of regular attendance and punctuality and discuss how missed days and late arrivals have an impact on learning.

We want to increase the number of children with 100% attendance and punctuality each half term.

Be on time every day, every week!

## Behaviour

Children are to always behave their very best at all times. Children know that this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school ethos. Children are taught to be considerate and supportive of each other. Children are encouraged to be welcoming and positive to visitors.

## Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk>

## Forth coming events

### Number Day

Friday 3 February 2024

### World Interfaith Harmony Week

Thursday 1 to Wednesday 7 February 2024

### Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7 February 2024

### Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 5 to Sunday 11 February 2024

### School closes

3:10pm Friday 9 February 2024

### School re-opens

7:50am Monday 19 February 2024

## Reminders

### School uniform

Please remember to clearly label your child's clothes and pumps.

**PE is now on Mondays and Tuesdays.**

## Finally...

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 1 team.