

# Year 1 Curriculum Letter - Spring 1 2026

Happy New Year! This newsletter will provide you with information on the half term ahead. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes, The Year One Team

Venus Class - Lisa Burnett, Ellie Angove and  
Daniella Wellington Pearson.

## Topic

The children will be focusing on 'Polar Regions - Frozen World'. In Year 1 the children will be developing their geographical knowledge using maps, atlases and globes to locate the Polar Regions. Children will look at seasonal changes and weather patterns focusing on hot and cold. We will look at communities and animals that live in polar regions and compare them to our local area.

## English- Writing

This term, our new English focus will be on '*Stanley Stick*' and '*Astro Girl*'. Children will continue to deepen their knowledge when writing simple sentences and begin to use the coordinating conjunction '**and**' to join to sentences together. We will continue to reinforce correct punctuation, including capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. To develop their writing further, we will explore how **adjectives** and **verbs** can be used to make sentences more interesting and detailed.

## English- Reading

In reading, we will continue with our **daily 1:1** reading session, as well as **guided reading on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings**. During guided reading, children will work on three key areas: reading accuracy, prosody (expression and fluency), and comprehension. We will also visit the school library once a week, where your child can choose a book to bring home. **Please remember that both reading books and library books should come to school every day. If books are missing, you may be charged for their replacement.**

## Phonics

In phonics, we will continue to focus on **Phase 5 sounds**, consolidating all previously taught sounds before moving on to new phonemes as the children's reading skills develop.

## Maths

Year 1 will be revisiting **place value** this half term. The children will be focusing on counting and representing numbers to **20**; ordering numbers; using the language of 'greater than,' 'less than' and 'equal to' to make comparisons and identifying more and less. This will be building upon the skills that the children learnt in the Autumn term.

## Science

In science this half term, we will be looking at **Sensitive Bodies**. Children will be identifying and learning naming different body parts whilst conducting practical activities with their senses to spot patterns. There will be fun experiments and activities for the children to explore their senses.

## Music

The children we been continuing their weekly Music lessons with a specialist Music teacher, Chashe. Year 1 will continue to identify high and low notes while creating their own rhythms and exploring different musical instruments.

### Art/DT

Art and DT will be taught through our Topic and Science. Through our D.T. lessons children will be develop clear design to create a structure of a polar region home. As part of our Art sessions we will be evaluating a sharing our opinions on different artists work. We will create a landscape using different media.

### P.E.

The children will receive two P.E. sessions a week - once with a specialist P.E. coach from the London P.E. network and once with their class teacher. This half term we will focus on **games**, Year One children are allowed to attend school in their full PE kits. PE kits which includes; *black tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt, trainers and their grey Grange school jumper*. Letters will go out to parents to those who do not attend school in full PE kits on the days listed below. P.E. will take place on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**.

### R.E.

The children will be looking at '**What is God's job?**' Discussing what the role of God's job is in different viewpoints in different religions.

### Computing

The children will be learning about how to use different technology to create art, the topic being title '**We are digital artists.**'

Year 1		Key Dates
9:00-9:30	Phonics / Assembly	06/01/26 Children return to school
9:30-10:20	Maths/English	09/01/26 - class newsletters and homework sent to parents.
10:20-10:40	Playtime	22/01/26 - Horniman Trip - <b>Please let me know if you can attend - first come, first served.</b>
10:40-12:00	Maths/English and COOL time	28/01/26 - Greenwich Trip - <b>Please let me know if you can attend - first come, first served.</b>
12:00-13:00	Lunch time	27/01/26 - Holocaust Memorial Day
13:00-13:30	Guided reading	31/01/26-8/2/26 - National Story Telling Week.
13:30-15:00	Art/Topic/Music/PE/Science/DT/RE/Library PSHE	04/2/26 - Phonic screening parent morning 9:00am
15:00-15:30	Story time / Getting ready to go home	06/2/26 - Number Day
<i>Assembly takes place on Monday and Friday mornings. Separate assemblies may take place to mark special events or occasions in the school calendar.</i>		WB 09/2/26 - Children's Mental Health Week.
		13/2/26 - School closed - Tutorial Day.
		<b>HALF TERM</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

To support your child ahead of the upcoming **Phonics Screening Check in June 2026**, please continue to prioritise daily reading and spelling practice at home. We are increasing our regular classroom assessments to identify specific learning gaps and will begin mini spelling checks focused on "**tricky words**" and alternative sounds. Please keep an eye out for these word lists in your child's bag, as practicing them together will help build their confidence and decoding skills. If you would like further guidance on how to support your child's progress, please feel free to