Year 1 Curriculum Letter – Spring 2 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
This term, our new English focus will be on '***Yeti and the Bird***' and '***Emma Jane's Aeroplane***''. The children will be learning to write simple sentences using the coordinating conjunction **'and'**. 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.

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 ones as the children's reading skills develop

Maths
Year 1 will be learning **addition and subtraction** 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
For science this half term, our unit is 'comparing animals'. We will be looking at grouping different animals, looking at their similarities and differences. We will also be focusing on the female zoologist, Jane Goodall.

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 soft toy. 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 include; *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 '**Why should we care for the world?**' 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 Publishers.**'

Year 1

9:00-9:30	Phonics / Assembly
9:30-10:20	Maths/English
10:20-10:40	Playtime
10:40-1200	Maths/English and COOL time
12:00-13:00	Lunch time
13:00-13:30	Guided reading
13:30-15:00	Art/Topic/Music/PE/Science/DT/RE/Library PSHE
15:00-15:30	Story time / Getting ready to go home

Assembly takes place on Monday and Friday mornings. Separate assemblies may take place to mark special events or occasions in the school calendar.

Key Dates

23/02/26 Children return to school

27/02/26 – class newsletters and homework sent to parents.
1/3/26 – St Davids Day
9/3/26 – DT week
16/3/26 – science week
17/3/26 – St Patricks Day
05/3/26 – World Book Day
20/3/26 – Red Nose Day
23/3/26 – Shakespeare week
26.3.26 – house winner's trip

April holiday
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 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