

## Year 1 Spring 1 Newsletter 2025-26

Our main learning topic this half term will be:

# The United Kingdom

<p>English</p>	<p>In English, our Year 1 children will begin the half-term learning how to write a simple narrative. We will read the story 'Snowball' by Sue Hendra and use plurals, numbers as words and simple sentences to write own versions of the character's journey down the hill.</p> <p>Next, the children will complete a performance poetry unit linked to their science learning on senses and based around the poem 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough. Pupils will begin by reading the poem aloud, before enhance the performance using objects or sound effect. Year 1 will then explore action words, go on a sound hunt round school/outside and use these to create their own plans and poems.</p> <p>Finally, Year 1 will be reading 'Toby and the Great fire of London' by Margaret Nash: a story about a young boy who helps save London from the spreading fire. The children will write diary entries imagining they are amidst the blaze, using their senses to support them in writing their descriptions.</p> <p>Children will continue to have a daily phonics session, alongside developing their spelling skills and handwriting.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>As mathematicians, Year 1 will focus on addition and subtraction facts within 20. Then, they will learn to read and write numbers to 50, count forwards, backwards and identify one more or one less than a given number. This half-term's KIRF targets (key instant recall facts) are to quickly recall number bonds that equal 20 and know doubles and halves of numbers to 10.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>In Science this half-term, the children will be investigating the 'Human Body and the Senses'. They will identify, name and label the basic parts of the human body and which part of the body is associated with each sense.</p>
<p>Computing</p>	<p>As computer scientists, Year 1 pupils will learn to log on to a shared electronic device by using their individual school logins. They will also familiarise themselves with the arrangement of letters and numbers on a standard keyboard.</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>As historians, the children will be finding out all about The Great Fire of London. Children will increase their understanding of the concepts in this topic by exploring location, the main events and reasoning behind the destruction and how this impacted the settlements. Children will explore using artefacts to ask and answer questions about the past.</p>
<p>Art and DT</p>	<p>In DT, we will be learning about moving mechanisms. We will be designing and making fire engines incorporating wheels and axels.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p>	<p>During our indoor PE lessons, children will be focusing on developing their gymnastic skills, by participating in a series of lessons which focus on balance and travel. Our outdoor PE unit this half-term aims to develop pupils' fundamental movement skills of dynamic and static balance. In this unit, the children will develop and apply their dynamic balance on a line and stance through focused skill development sessions, thematic stories and games.</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p>This half term we will be focussing our PSHE learning on mental health and well-being. Linking our learning to Children's Mental Health Week, Year 1 will learn about different types of feelings and how to manage these generally, as well as in situations of loss or change.</p>
<p>RE</p>	<p>'How can we make good choices?' is the theme of our RE learning this term. Children will begin by considering what makes a happy classroom, and why rules are important. Pupils will then study moral codes from Christianity, Judaism and Islam, including the Ten Commandments and the Five Pillars. They will also look at non-religious stories and how these exemplify some guidelines for life.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>In Music, we will be following the BBC Teach Year 1 Great Fire of London music programme. They will explore the Great Fire of 1666 through learning 3 different songs and will explore accompanying these through a range of musical instruments.</p>



### Dates for your diary!

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

MindMate Support Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – Managing Emotions 9-10am.

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

FROGs Valentines Bake Sale

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

School Closes



### PE Days

#### Year 1 Enthusiastic Elephants

Tuesday morning and afternoon

#### PE clothing:

Please ensure children come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days (bottle green hoody/jumper/cardigan, school PE t-shirt and plain black jogging bottoms).

Please ensure all uniform is labelled for ease of return in case they are misplaced.

Long hair needs to be tied up and ear studs removed or covered with tape.

#### Reminders:

Each day, please bring the following:

- Waterproof coat
- Labelled water bottles\*
- Book bags (maximum 1-key ring)
- Healthy snack (no nuts).\*\*

\*Please ensure that your child's water bottle is cleaned regularly at home.

\*\*Please send your child's snack in a small container or bag suitable for them eating their snack outside during morning break.

Please do not send your child with toys or stationery, unless this has been pre-agreed with their class teacher.



### Homework

Each week, pupils will receive the following homework:

- Maths (online/written)
- English (written)
- Reading book x 2

#### Maths:

Maths homework is assigned on a **Friday**, to be completed by the following **Wednesday**. Year 1 will be alternating weekly between Numbots and written tasks for Maths homework.

#### English

Writing homework is assigned on a **Friday**, to be completed by the following **Wednesday**. Tasks will be stuck into pupils' homework books. Teachers will acknowledge by stamping or ticking pupil's work.

#### Reading:

Your child should read to you for a minimum of 10-minutes a day. RWI Book Bag Books are linked to what your child is reading in their phonics groups that week. Your child will also come home with a reading for pleasure book for you to enjoy together. Books are changed once a week on a **Friday**\*. **Please ensure books are in book bags each day.**

\*As we only have limited copies, if your child does not return their book, we cannot give them a new one and will send photocopies home instead.

### Polite Request

Before and after school, please do not let your children climb on the outdoor equipment in the playgrounds such as the trim trail and castle. This is particularly important when the ground is wet and icy as, in accordance with our health and safety risk assessments, these would be out of bounds for pupils during the school day in such circumstances. We appreciate your support with this.



### Phonics Groups

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils work in differentiated groups for their daily phonics lesson. This allows pupils to access phonics learning and activities in a smaller group, giving school the opportunity to provide targeted support with reading and writing. Pupils are formally reassessed and regrouped each half term.

Please do not be concerned if your child does not move groups every half-term as some elements of the assessment, such as recognising special friends in words, speedy reading of words or reading fluently at a particular pace, can take longer to develop. Consequently, if your child brings home a book bag book that they have already had, please be reassured that this is purposeful and will further develop their reading confidence and fluency.



### Spring 1 KIRF Targets

Please find time to practise your KIRF targets at home.

- Quickly recall number bonds that equal 20 e.g. 1 + 19, 2 + 18, 3 + 17 etc.
- Know doubles and halves of numbers to 10 e.g. double 8 = 16.



### Celebration Assemblies

Celebration assemblies are a Friday favourite at Greenside where the teachers love to share how proud they are of the many achievements of our brilliant pupils!

These take place fortnightly and parents/carers are invited to celebrate with their child. You will receive a text on the Wednesday before if your child is going to be presented with an award for either following the 'Great at Greenside' rules or using their Learning Powers.