



January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a relaxing holiday and are ready for another busy term in Year 1.

### Curriculum

In **English**, we have already started talking about our favourite toys and writing descriptions of them. We will be focusing on the stories 'Lost in the Toy Museum' and 'The Storm Whale' this term. Please see the **Weekly Overviews** for more detail.

In **Maths**, we started the unit of learning on '**Numbers 11-20**'. We are learning to count to and across 20, forwards and backwards; we are learning to count, read and write numbers to 20 in numerals and words; we are also learning to count in multiples of twos, fives and tens.

In **Phonics**, we will continue learning the phase 5 sounds. Please see the weekly overview to see which sounds we are learning each week. Please see the separate post on ParentHub regarding **Weekly Spellings**.

This half-term our focus will be on 'Castles' in **History**. We will be learning about **William the Conqueror** and discussing the **Battle of Hastings**; looking at different features of a castle; using maps to locate some castles within the UK; finding out about life and jobs in a medieval castle; finding out about knights and what their roles were, and finally comparing the lives of **Queen Elizabeth I** and **II** and the castles they lived in.

Our **Science** topic for this term is 'Everyday Materials'. Children will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock; describing the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials, and comparing and grouping together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.

In **Music**, our unit of work is 'What's it made of?' We will be learning to sing and play musical instruments with a steady beat.

Our **Religion and Worldviews** unit of work is 'How do we celebrate our journey through life?' We will be talking about how people celebrate important events in their lives.

Our Personal Social Health Education (**PSHE**) unit of work will be '**Health and Wellbeing**'. We are also going to be focusing on '**Equality and Diversity**' this term. We will be reading the book '**We are all Welcome**' and doing different activities relating to the story.

In **Computing**, we will be starting a new unit called '**Algorithms Unplugged**'. We will be learning what algorithms are, to follow instructions precisely to carry out an action, to understand that computers and devices around us use inputs and outputs and to debug an algorithm using directions and a map.

**Headteacher Leon Choueke**

In PE we will be focusing on dance, gymnastics and games. Please ensure children come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days. They can wear shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, and a t-shirt and will need to be wearing trainers.

### **MyMaths/Numbots**

Some new activities for this term have been added to MyMaths. There are a range of activities based on what we are learning at school this term. Some of the activities your child may be able to do independently, but with some of them your child may need some adult support. If you require a reminder of logins please speak to your class teacher.

### **Junk Modelling, Spare Clothes and Crafts Money**

As always, we really appreciate any cardboard boxes for us to use for junk modelling. We would also appreciate any trousers/leggings and socks as well as any monetary donations for crafting materials.

### **Trips**

Our first trip will be to the Little Angel Theatre on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January** to see 'The Storm Whale'. Please see the separate letter on ParentHub for further information.

### **Dates for your diaries:**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January:** Sibling photos

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January:** INSET day (school is closed for all children)

We are looking forward to a very happy and successful half term.

Yours sincerely, The Year 1 Team

**Headteacher Leon Choueke**