

Spring Term in Year 1

Welcome back to the second term of our journey through Year 1. The children have settled brilliantly into our daily routines and are making us very proud with their increased attention, resilience and curiosity about the world around them.

Sudbury Hall

We began our term with our trip to Sudbury Museum of Childhood. The children's behaviour was exemplary and they thoroughly enjoyed exploring a wide range of old toys. They were fascinated by the clockwork toys, the threadbare teddy bears, the detailed dolls houses and the metal cars and trains. Photos will soon be on our school website so make sure you ask your child about the things they remember seeing. In addition to this, the experience of climbing through a chimney and sitting in a Victorian classroom will be a memory that will stick with them for many years to come. Thank goodness our children have very different childhoods these days!

Independent Learning

This term is all about building independence and helping children to become more responsible for themselves and their learning. Simple things at home like asking them to find their clothing, pack their bag and dress themselves will all help with this. Gentle prompts or reminders will help them to take on more tasks by themselves and help their confidence continue to grow. See how much your child can do by themselves – they are amazing and glow when they achieve things on their own.

To encourage this in school, we have our Forest school sessions. These help children to learn in an individual way and develop their fine and gross motor skills, their problem-solving and their teamwork skills in our fantastic school grounds. We are very excited to see how much the children gain from these sessions.

This Term's Learning



During our first half term, we will be looking at humans and homes. We will find out about the continents and oceans of the world and will then start to look at the difference between the human and physical features of our globe. Ask your child to impress you by singing the continents song once we learn it as we are sure it will get stuck in your head. To support with the children's learning, we are sending home two knowledge organisers with the key facts the children will be memorising. Please stick these onto your fridge and refer to them at home.

We will also be looking at the human body and how we use our senses to explore the world around us. We will learn about the parts of our bodies and then use our senses to smell, taste and touch a range of objects. After half term we will be moving our focus onto animals – we will be learning about different groups of animals and the features that tell us which group an animal belongs to. We will also be learning about the art of Leonardo Da Vinci and trying to sketch bodies in different positions before using mouldable materials to explore the colours and patterns found on animals. We are hoping for some really impressive artwork from this.



In English we will be continuing to learn using Talk for Writing. This involves learning a text off by heart and then developing our writing skills by making small changes and using our imagination to explore the characters and settings. The children already know the stories of 'Billy the Brave Knight' and 'Kassim and the Greedy Dragon' off by heart as well as being able to retell a range of traditional tales in their own words. If you would like to support your child's writing at home, asking them to write a sentence a day is a great way to do this. Help your child by supporting them to:

- form their letters correctly by using the correct starting place
- sit their letters on the lines of the page
- start each sentence with a capital letter and end it with a full stop.
- use clear finger spaces between words
- include interesting descriptions or vocabulary
- segment the sounds in words to help them spell

This term we will continue our journey into Phase 5 of our phonics. We are now learning new GPCs and that some groups of letters make more than one sound. For example, 'ie' says /ee/ in 'field' and /igh/ in 'spied'. This gives us different ways of writing the sounds we need to form words. This means that we have choices when reading and spelling and have to think carefully about which sound makes the word correct.



In Maths we have been consolidating our understanding of addition and subtraction. We have been using visual images and lots of equipment to add and subtract as well as writing and solving written number sentences. We will be extending our knowledge of numbers beyond 10 and learning the value of these numbers; for example, 16 is made up of 1 ten and 6 ones. A little time spent in the car answering mental addition or subtraction questions or time at home solving written number sentences would also help so ask your child to show you what they can

do. The children are also getting really good at knowing all their number bonds. A number bond is a pair of numbers that makes a total and there are several number bonds for each of the numbers up to 10. For example we know that all these pairs of numbers total 6:

6 and 0	5 and 1	4 and 2	3 and 3	2 and 4	1 and 5	0 and 6
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See if you can remember and list all the number bonds for different numbers to 10. This basic understanding will then be really useful to them in all future areas of maths.

White Post Farm Visit

As part of our learning about animals, we are excited to have some animals from White Post Farm visiting us just after half term. A permission letter for this activity will follow shortly but we look forward to meeting and learning about a range of interesting creatures. This activity will require a contribution of £3.50 per child.

1000 Reads



This year we are working towards 1000 reads as a class. We are very close and will soon be visiting the library in Arnold to celebrate this achievement. Remember that the 'sharing book' your child brings home is for you to read together, perhaps at bedtime or curled up with a snack. The fully decodable book is matched carefully to your child's phonics ability which means they should be able to read this independently to you. The children are doing extremely well with their expression when reading and with their understanding of what they have read so make sure you record their reading in their organiser. We expect children in Year 1 to read a minimum of 4 times a week. Please make sure this is happening so that your child can access all areas of the curriculum.

If you would like any more books to read with your child, the link below takes you to a range of online books that you might enjoy together. These will not all be fully decodable but will give you variety if you and your child would like to explore them. Select the Oxford Owl books once you have logged in and choose the 4-7 age range:



www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Class 3 username: class3-rb Password: are amazing (note the space between the words)

Class 4 username: rbpsclass4 Password: superstar

Here are some reminders about life in Class 3 and Class 4:

Snacks and milk

During morning break, children may bring in a healthy snack (such as a piece of fruit, some vegetables or a healthy bar). **Please make sure the snacks are nut-free as we are a nut-free school and also do not contain any chocolate as we are a healthy school.**

Milk is still available but is no longer free now the children are in Year 1. If you would like your child to continue to have milk, forms are available from the school office.

PE

Indoor PE is on a Monday and outdoor PE is on a Wednesday in Year 1. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit which should consist of a white t-shirt/polo shirt and black shorts/tracksuit bottoms. Children can wear a plain dark hoody or their normal school jumper and appropriate trainers. Please only send your child in lace up trainers if they can tie the laces themselves. Forest School takes place on alternate Thursdays for Class 3 and Class 4. Children need to bring appropriate warm and waterproof clothing to put over their uniform for these sessions.

Labelled clothing

As you can imagine, we end up with lots of clothing that needs returning to its owner. We ask that all pieces of clothing are labelled with your child's name including shoes, bags, lunch boxes, PE kits and especially jumpers and cardigans. Your class teacher may write your child's name on a label in their cardigan or jumper if it doesn't already contain it.

Water bottles

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in school that they can easily open to refill. These can stay in the classroom to be emptied and refilled by the children or you may take them home each day. Please ensure the children's classroom water bottle contains only water. This is in addition to any drink you provide as part of their packed lunch.

Thank You

Thank you once again for the support you are continuing to give your child regarding their education. Year 1 is a wonderful adventure and we are sure you will have already noticed what bright and independent individuals the children are becoming. Remember that our door is always open if you wish to discuss your child's progress. We look forwards to a very exciting term in the lead up to Easter.

Kind regards, Mrs Kenyon, Miss Frankland, Mr Beard and the Year 1 Team

