

September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year 1 Hummingbirds! We hope that you had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for a fun-filled and busy term! The children have made an excellent start to the year; we have been very impressed by the positive attitudes to learning displayed so far.

Hummingbirds will be taught by Mrs Garcia (Monday to Wednesday) and Mrs Arnott (Thursday and Friday). They will be supported by Mrs Bunton and Miss Mateus everyday.

It has been lovely to meet many of you informally this week at the classroom door in the mornings or after school. Please do introduce any adult who may be picking your child up. We are holding 'Meet the Teacher' meetings to introduce ourselves and explain more about your child's learning this year. The year 1 meeting on **Thursday 10th September at 3.15pm, in the Year 1 classroom**; we hope to see many of you there.

Autumn Term Learning

In **English**, we will begin the term by practising writing captions, labels and lists inspired by the books 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen and 'Sam plants a sunflower' by Kate Petty and Axel Scheffler. Our poetry unit will be based on 'Purple is...' where we will be writing our own colour poem using adjectives, followed by writing our own colour poems. We will also read 'Puffin Peter' by Petr Horacek, which is a lovely story about friendship and we will be retelling the story in our own words.

Later this term, we will explore 'Gruffalo Crumble and other recipes; The Gruffalo Cookbook', based on the picture book by Julia Donaldson. We will develop skills in reading non-fiction texts and learn how to create and follow instructions. Lastly, we will look at a number of traditional tales, focussing on retelling the stories and writing some of our own.

We will have daily **phonics** sessions following the Little Wandle scheme. Children will be taught in small groups, focusing on consolidating phase 2 and phase 3 sounds before moving on to phase 4 and 5. There is a phonics workshop on **Thursday 17th September at 3.15pm** in the Year 1 classroom. We will explain how we teach the different sounds in more detail and discuss how you can support your child with their phonics at home.

In **maths**, we will begin by consolidating our counting skills. We will learn to compare and order numbers and find one more and one less from any given number. We will continue to work on our number bonds to 10 and use these facts to start adding and subtracting numbers to 20. We will then focus on positional language and ordinal numbers.

We will continue with 'Maths Magicians!' focusing on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Every Thursday, children will complete a quiz related to the key facts they have been learning. After successfully completing the quiz in the allotted time, pupils will move onto learning the next set of facts. Each successfully completed quiz will be recorded and dated in their home learning books.

In **science** this term, we will start our seasons topic that we will revisit across the year. We will talk about all four seasons and think about what happens in Autumn. We will also start our learning about materials; looking at every day materials, identifying, describing and comparing their physical properties. Using this knowledge we will be helping some astronauts redesign their space suits and adapt their rockets!

New to Year 1 this year: we will be making regular visits to Forest School this year, to enhance our learning even further.

In **history** this term, we will be investigating what it takes to be a great explorer! We will be learning about Ranulph Fiennes and his amazing journey across Antarctica. We will find out about Amy Johnson and the challenges she faced as a woman to succeed. We will be considering the qualities Bessie Coleman needed to become the first, black female pilot. We will be exploring Neil Armstrong's achievements and finding out about Matthew Henson and his exploration of the Arctic.

In **geography**, we will be focusing on our local area and exploring it on foot. We will be finding out about the different human and physical features in our local area and investigating the different types of houses. We will be looking at maps of the United Kingdom and finding out where we live. We will be exploring the school grounds and creating our own simple maps of school.

RE lessons this term are focused on Christianity. We will be learning about the creation story and considering how we can protect our wonderful planet for future generations. In the second half of term, we will be learning about the Christmas story. We will explore the question, 'What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem?'

In **computing** this term, the children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. We will also be exploring how to paint digitally using a free program called Paintz.app.

The children's **PE** sessions will be taught on a Monday and Thursday morning by Mr Stevenson-Leigh. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on these days and will remain in it all day so will not need uniform to change into. Please make sure they have a t-shirt in the colour of the house group for every PE lesson.

We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work for Personal, Social and Health Education (**PSHE**) Our whole school theme for the first half of Autumn term is 'Being Me in My World'. We will be discussing when we feel safe and special and our rights and responsibilities as a member of our class. In the second half term, we will spend time 'Celebrating Difference' in Year 1. The children will receive weekly awards in assembly related to the skills taught in these lessons.

Home Learning

Home learning will involve weekly tasks that provide children with the opportunity to revisit learning from in class. There will be a mix of practical and written tasks focusing on phonics and maths. These will be set on a **Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday** in order for them to be marked. We would also like children to practise their key facts for their 'maths magicians' facts on a daily basis.

Reading is a vital part of home learning. Children are encouraged to read ten minutes daily with an adult at home. Books will be changed weekly. Please date and sign your child's reading record every time you listen to them read. Every time your child reads, this will count towards our whole school reading initiative: Give Me Ten. Library visits will be **every Wednesday**, where your child will choose a book to enjoy at home.

Please look at our class page on the website to find out ways in which you can help your child with their phonics, reading and maths.

This term will be very busy with lots of exciting learning opportunities! Please see the school's website for key dates and our class page for regular updates.

With kind regards,

Mrs Garcia and Mrs Arnott