



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS1 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year One

Spring 1st Half Term: January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you have all managed to have an enjoyable Christmas. We are delighted to welcome the children to their second term in Year One and have lots of exciting activities planned for the coming weeks. Much of our learning this half term will centre upon our Science unit of work 'Materials' and upon our key texts 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Girl with the Yellow Bag'.

The table below gives a brief outline of the learning in different subject areas.

	Focus of Learning				
English	We begin the term focussing our writing around the book 'The Three Little Pigs'. As well as role playing the different characters, the children will be considering how to make their sentences more descriptive and writing a description of the wolf. Following this, we will use the short film 'The Girl with the Yellow Bag' to inspire us to write our own story. In addition, we will be exploring plurals and when to add s and es. The children will be learning the terms nouns, adjectives and verbs and beginning to identify these word classes in sentences. They will continue to practise using capital letters at the beginning of sentences, full stops at the end and leaving clear spaces between words when writing.				
Phonics	In Phonics lessons the children will continue to revise the phase three and phase five phonemes they have already learnt, with a particular focus on:				
	ay - play	ou - cloud	ie - pie	ea - treat	oy - boy
	ir - shirt	ue - blue	aw - lawn	wh - whip	ph - phone
	ew - crew	oe - tiptoe	au - pause	ey - money	a_e- cake
	e_e- compete	i_e - time	o_e - note	u_e – tune	c- city
During phonics lessons children will practice reading and spelling words containing these sounds.					
Maths	In Maths, the children will start the term by exploring, naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes. Following this, the children will be extending their understanding of place value with numbers up to 20. They will be comparing and ordering numbers to 20 and finding one more and one less than a given number. They will build on their skills of addition by counting on, adding using known number bonds, finding and making number bonds to 20, doubling numbers and using near doubles.				
Science	Our Science topic this half term is 'Materials'. The children will be learning to identify different materials including plastic, metal, wood, glass and paper. They will be learning about the properties of these materials and will be thinking of different ways in which they can be grouped. We will also be investigating which materials are best for protecting us from rain.				
Computing	In Computing, children will learn that an algorithm is a set of instructions and begin to follow and create simple instructions on a device. Later in the half-term, the children will learn to create a simple animated book. This will involve the using 'painting tools' to make a picture and then following one and two step instructions to add basic animation. As part of this unit of work, children will be given lots of opportunities to practise key skills such as logging into Purple Mash and saving and retrieving work.				

Geography	In Geography, the children will be exploring their local area. They will explore the differences between urban and rural areas. They will identify the features of the school playground and the local area around school. They will learn to identify Ordnance Survey map symbols and create a map of the local area.
PHSE	In PSHE the children will be exploring what it means to have dreams and goals, what success and achievement look like and how to celebrate success. They will also be reflecting on how to identify and overcome the obstacles they might face as they seek to achieve their goals.
Art	In Art the children will explore the special characteristics of watercolour. They will be learning about the artists Emma Burleigh and Paul Klee and studying their work. They will have the opportunity to experiment using water colours on both dry and wet paper. They will use their imaginations to create pictures out of the marks they make and enhance these pictures with other mediums such as pen and pastels.
RE	In RE, the focus this term will be on Judaism. This half term the children will be exploring the big question 'Why is learning to do good deeds so important to Jewish people?'
Music	In Music, the children will learn to recognise that music is made up of high and low sounds and long and short sounds. They will explore these sounds through a variety of songs. We will also be learning to use the xylophones to accompany simple pieces of music and will be focussing on using the notes C D E and F.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to be set on Google Classroom and will consist of weekly spellings to practise on Edshed and **an alternating Maths or Literacy/Topic activity**. The activities will be set on Friday and will need to be completed and turned in by **the following Wednesday**. A photograph can be taken of the learning and then uploaded and submitted to Google Classroom.

Reading

One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning is to ensure that they engage with 10-15 minutes reading every day. This can consist of hearing them read their school reading book or sharing books that you have at home. Each week children will take home a school reading book which they need to practise reading at least four times during the week.

Children will also be given a paper reading record which needs to be sent into school every day with their reading book. We ask that you make a brief comment about your child's reading at least once a week in this book.

P.E.

We will continue to have a coached PE session every **Friday**. The class will also have PE on a **Thursday**. On these days, children will need to **come in to school wearing their PE kit**. This should consist of their school PE t-shirt, jogging bottoms/PE shorts and trainers (not plimsolls, due to possible wet weather).

Items that need to be in school every day:

- Named school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle
- Folder containing reading book and paper reading record book (provided by school)
- School book bags if children have them.

If you have any questions, please contact the class team via the School Office email.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Caroline Goringe, Eileen Beechey and the Year 1 team