



# Welcome to Year 1!



Hello everyone,

Welcome to a brand-new school year in Year 1! We're really looking forward to getting to know you and your children as we start this exciting journey together.

This term, we'll be focusing on reading and phonics, helping every child grow in confidence and enjoyment. We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme for phonics. Reading really is at the heart of everything we do. Please try to read with your child as often as possible at home, even just a few minutes a day. It's also very important that your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day so we can check who has been reading. When reading records are signed at home, we celebrate this in school with stickers, prizes and lots of praise to encourage children's progress and enjoyment.

I'll be sending more information as the term and year progress to keep you updated about what we're learning and how you can support at home. I'm really looking forward to working closely with both the children and parents to make this year a happy, successful one.

If you have any questions or would like a quick chat, you're very welcome to catch me at the classroom door at drop-off or pick-up. You can also get in touch via our class email. Please be aware that important information that is relevant for same-day issues should be notified to the office, as the class email address may not be checked during that working day. I will try to respond to emails as soon as possible, and within 48 hours during the working week, even if it is just to arrange a suitable time to talk or give a further response. Thank you for your support with this.

Class email address: [yr1@colneyheath.herts.sch.uk](mailto:yr1@colneyheath.herts.sch.uk)

Below you'll find more details about our curriculum for the term. We're so excited to start learning, exploring and growing together!

Miss Walsh and the Year 1 Team

## English

We are following the Herts for Learning materials. We will be looking at the units below, which all include the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

1. Whole-school writing unit featuring 'The Tree and the River' by Aaron Becker
2. Labels, lists and captions unit featuring 'Someone Just Like You' by Helen Docherty and David Roberts
3. Narrative unit featuring 'Puffin Peter' by Petr Horáček
4. Poetry unit featuring 'Purple is...' by anonymous
5. Recipes unit featuring 'Gruffalo Crumble and Other Recipes' by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler
6. Narrative Unit (Traditional Tales) featuring 'Stop! That's Not My Story!' by Smriti Halls and Erika Meza

## Maths

We are following the Herts for Learning materials. We will be looking at the topics below.

- Positional Language, Including Ordinal Numbers
- Numbers to Ten
  - Finding Patterns (including subitising)
  - Counting and Comparison (more, less, fewer)
  - Estimating and Ordering
  - Regrouping the Whole
  - Part-Whole Addition and Subtraction
  - Solving Problems Using Part or Whole Unknown
  - Comparison
  - Equality and Balance
- Numbers to Twenty
  - Making 10 and Some More
  - Estimating and Ordering, 1 More and 1 Less
  - Doubling and Halving
  - Odd and Even Numbers
- Names and Properties of 2-D and 3-D Shapes

**Science**

We'll be exploring some exciting topics. We'll be looking at the seasons throughout the year, noticing how weather, daylight and nature change as we move from autumn to winter, to spring and to summer.

We'll also be learning about everyday materials, investigating what different things are made from and why. A big idea running through our work will be the link between structure and function – how something's shape or material helps it to do its job.

We'll practise grouping living and non-living things in different ways, noticing similarities and differences in the world around us.

We're looking forward to plenty of hands-on experiments, outdoor observations and fun investigations to help us think like young scientists!

<p><b>RE</b></p> <p>We will be learning about the Christian creation story. We will learn about the key events and be able to retell the story. We will begin to understand that some Christians believe different things about creation.</p> <p>We will also learn about the Christmas story in more detail. We will find out about how Christmas is celebrated today and consider which traditions are secular (not religious) and which are religious.</p>	<p><b>PSHE</b></p> <p>Our first topic is 'Being Me in My World'. We will create a Learning Charter to help us in class and think about how we can feel safe. We will consider our rights and responsibilities for being a member of our class.</p> <p>Our second topic is 'Celebrating Difference'. We will think about similarities and differences between people in our class and how we can be a kind friend.</p>	<p><b>History</b></p> <p>We'll be exploring toys – old and new! The children will learn about the toys we play with today and compare them with toys from the past. We'll explore how toys have changed over time, what they are made from, and why some toys were popular in the past but not anymore. We will be looking at photographs, sorting and grouping toys, and creating simple timelines.</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> <p>Children will be introduced to Purple Mash and the essential basic knowledge and skills required for the Year 1 units. Through a range of activities, children will learn about 2Dos, saving work and navigating to key areas.</p> <p><a href="https://www.2simple.com/home/purple-mash/">https://www.2simple.com/home/purple-mash/</a></p>	<p><b>Art</b></p> <p>We'll be inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a British artist known for using natural materials to create sculptures and patterns in the landscape. We'll be focusing on 3D form, experimenting with shape, texture and structure. The children will have opportunities to work both indoors and outdoors, using natural materials such as leaves, stones and sticks, as well as clay.</p>	<p><b>DT</b></p> <p>We'll be learning about sliders and levers. The children will explore how simple mechanisms work and then design and make their own moving card. Using card, paper, split pins and other simple materials, they'll create pictures where a part can slide or lift, such as a car that moves across a road or a bird that flaps its wings.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>We will be learning about the song 'Hey You!' by Joanna Mangona - an Old-School Hip Hop tune written for children. We will learn about the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch and to learn how to rap.</p> <p>Then we will look at 'Rhythm In The Way We Walk' (Reggae style) and 'Banana Rap' (Hip Hop style). We will listen &amp; appraise the music through games and singing.</p>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <p>This term, PE will be on a Wednesday and a Thursday. Please ensure children have a named PE kit in school. Our topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing games</li> <li>• Ball skills</li> <li>• Running</li> <li>• Gymnastics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Phonics and Reading</b></p> <p>We have 30 minute phonics lessons every day and 3 reading sessions every week.</p> <p>Little Wandle has great resources for parents on their website.</p> <p><a href="https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/">https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/</a></p>