



Welcome Back to Spring Term in Year 1!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and a happy New Year. We would like to warmly welcome all our Year 1 children and families back to school and say how much we are looking forward to the spring term ahead.

This term, we will continue to place a strong focus on phonics reading, as it plays a vital role in your child's learning and confidence across the curriculum. In Year 1, we celebrate reading every day and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics programme to support children in becoming fluent, confident readers. We kindly encourage you to read with your child every day at home, even if it is just for a short time. The more children read, the greater the progress they make in their reading skills. Please remember to record all home reading in your child's reading record, as this helps us to support and celebrate their achievements in school.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited for the term ahead and look forward to working together to help every child succeed.

If you have any questions or would like a quick chat, please feel free to speak to me at the classroom door at drop-off or pick-up, or contact me via the class email. For same-day or urgent messages, please notify the school office, as emails may not be checked during the school day.

Class email: yr1@colneyheath.herts.sch.uk

Below you'll find more details about our curriculum for the Spring Term. We're so excited to continue our learning journey!

Miss Walsh and the Year 1 Team

| English | Maths |
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| <p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Narrative – Stanley's Stick2. Rules & Recount – Ravi's Roar & Ruby's Worry3. Poetry – Oi Frog!4. Narrative – Madlenka & Martha Maps It Out5. Performance Poetry – Julia Donaldson's Poems to Perform | <p>We are following the Herts for Learning materials. We will be looking at the topics below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Names and Properties of 2-D and 3-D Shapes• Measures: the language of comparing length, height, mass and speed• Sequencing events: days of the week and months of the year• Numbers to 20<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Adding using 'Think 10'○ Subtraction using 'Think 10'○ Equality and balance○ Part or whole unknown○ Language and problem solving○ Comparison (difference, more, less, fewer) including statistics• Measures: coins and combinations to 20p, ordering and comparing• Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s• Measures: non-standard measures and introducing simple standard measures |

Science

In Science this term, children are learning about animals and the human body. They will identify and name common animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, and learn how animals are grouped by what they eat (carnivores, herbivores and omnivores). Children will also describe and compare the main features of different animals, including pets.

They will explore the human body by naming, drawing and labelling basic body parts and learning which parts are linked to each of the five senses.

We will also continue looking at seasonal changes and how these affect the world around us.

Children will take part in practical experiments, outdoor observations and enjoyable investigations to support their scientific thinking.

We are excited to be going on a science trip to the **Field Studies Council at Epping Forest on Tuesday 10th March**. Pupils will enjoy exploring nature, discovering plants and animals, and taking part in fun, hands-on science activities. Further details will follow soon!  

RE

During Spring 1, we will learn about Jewish beliefs and ways of life, including the Torah, the mezuzah and the Shema prayer, as well as the importance of Shabbat and Chanukah.

In Spring 2, we will explore Christian parables such as the Lost Son and Jonah and the Big Fish, learning about forgiveness, God's love and how Christians put their beliefs into practice through worship.

Geography

We will learn about different types of weather and the seasons, including the difference between weather and climate. We will track daily weather, create and perform weather forecasts, and learn about hot and cold climates around the world. Children will also explore the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and the equator, and investigate places with extreme climates such as Antarctica and the Sahara Desert.

History

We will be learning about explorers and will be finding out about three significant explorers – Christopher Columbus, Isabella Bird and Neil Armstrong. We will be learning how they travelled and explored in different ways and at different times. We will compare the past and the present and develop their understanding of time by exploring when these explorers lived and why they are remembered today.

PSHE

This term in PSHE, children will learn about Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me. They will set simple goals, keep trying when things are difficult, work well with others, face challenges, overcome obstacles, and celebrate their achievements. They will also learn how to make healthy choices, including eating well, staying active, keeping clean, using medicines safely, and staying safe.

Art

In art, we will explore the work of Claude Monet, focusing on *Water Lilies*. They will learn to use and mix primary colours to create secondary colours and apply these skills to build up a painting. Children will experiment with different brush techniques to create backgrounds, trees and water features, and will add details such as bridges and water lilies. They will also use other media such as pastels.

DT

We'll be learning about sliders and levers. The children will explore how simple mechanisms work and then plan, design, and make their own moving cards. Using card, paper, split pins, and other basic materials, they will create pictures with parts that can slide or lift, such as a car that moves across a road or a bird that flaps its wings. This project encourages creativity and problem-solving.

Computing

Children will continue using Purple Mash and will be Creating and Following Instructions. They will practise giving clear, precise instructions and use digital tools to create animated stories, sequencing actions and adding movement. This helps develop their skills in problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity while exploring storytelling.

<https://www.2simple.com/home/purple-mash/>

Music

This term in music, children will be learning In the Groove by Joanna Mangona, exploring six different styles including Blues, Latin, and Funk, as well as Round and Round, a lively Bossa Nova piece. Lessons combine singing, listening, instrument playing, and music games to help children develop skills in rhythm, pitch, pulse, and teamwork while enjoying making music together.

PE

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:

- Ball skills
- Dance
- Health and wellbeing