

Year 1: Autumn Term 2026

Curriculum Newsletter

Key Texts:

The scarecrows wedding (whole school focus), Gruffalo, Owl babies, two brothers and a chocolate factory.

English:

Children will develop their writing through descriptive and creative activities. They will learn to:

- Write simple sentences and begin to join ideas together.
- Use adjectives to make writing more interesting.
- Apply phonics knowledge to spell words.
- Read and spell common Year 1 exception words.
- Use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces correctly.

By the end of term, children will write short pieces independently using descriptive vocabulary and simple punctuation.

Mathematics:

Children will:

- Count, compare and order numbers within 10.
- Find 1 more and 1 less.
- Use addition and subtraction within 10.
- Learn number bonds and simple problem-solving.
- Recognise, name and sort 2-D and 3-D shapes.
- Create and identify repeating patterns.

Children will explain their mathematical thinking and apply skills in practical contexts.

Geography: Bright Lights, Big City!

Children will compare Wall Heath with Birmingham by:

- Using maps, atlases, globes and aerial photographs.
- Identifying human and physical features.
- Learning about villages, towns and cities.
- Using directional and compass language.
- Creating simple maps with symbols and keys.

Key Question: How is Birmingham different from where we live?

Science – Animals Including humans

Children will:

- Identify mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.
- Explore carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.
- Investigate life cycles and animal growth.
- Learn about the human body and five senses.

They will develop scientific enquiry skills through practical investigations.

 History – Why Do We Celebrate Bonfire Night? Children will learn about the Gunpowder Plot, Guy Fawkes and the origins of Bonfire Night.

 History – How Did John Cadbury Change the Lives of People in Bournville?

Children will discover how John Cadbury improved workers' lives and learn why he remains an important historical figure, including a visit to Cadbury World.

 We think critically in Religious Education:

Children will explore:

- **Who is Muslim and how do they live?**
- **Why does Christmas matter to Christians?**

They will learn about beliefs, celebrations, values and traditions within both faiths.

 Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

Children will:

- Celebrate similarities and differences.
- Build positive friendships.
- Learn about kindness, respect and cooperation.
- Understand the difference between safe and unsafe secrets and know how to seek help.

 Computing

Children will:

- Learn how information is organised online.
- Understand basic internet safety.
- Create and follow simple algorithms.
- Debug simple programs and develop problem-solving skills.

 Music

Children will explore rhythm and pulse through singing, movement and percussion. They will also take part in a Christmas Singing Project to develop performance confidence and expressive singing.

Physical Education

Children will:

- Create and perform simple dance sequences.
- Develop throwing, catching, rolling and dribbling skills.
- Use simple tactics and improve coordination and control.

 Art

Through *Lighting Up the Night Sky*, children will:

- Explore primary colours and colour mixing.
- Create artwork inspired by fireworks and night-time scenes using drawing, painting and collage. ✨ 🎨

 Design and Technology

Children will design and make a moving Cadbury truck, learning about wheels, axles and simple mechanisms while developing their designing, making and evaluating skills.  

We look forward to an exciting term of learning and discovery with Year 1! ✨