

Newcomen Primary School

Year 1 Curriculum Overview

Introduction

Welcome to Year 1! We strongly believe in a broad and balanced curriculum that is primarily Literary based. As a school, we believe a text-rich environment ensures that all learning is relevant and stimulating across the whole curriculum. It really does allow the children to fully immerse themselves in what they are doing. We are also mindful of the amount of time your child has spent engaging in remote learning rather than face to face learning in the classroom. As a result, our curriculum is designed to offer them the support they need academically, practically and emotionally. Your children are our most precious asset. Remember that we are here to help so if you have any questions at all about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

English

At Newcomen Primary School, we aim to promote a shared love of reading and use this skill to expand the children's vocabulary. During the Autumn Term, we will spend time studying traditional tales, including the enchanting story of Hansel and Gretel, focusing on the pattern of stories and the language used to create them. Children will retell the tales using picture plans and drama before writing their own versions independently. Along with traditional tales, we focus on narrative writing, instructional texts, report writing linked to animals, diary entries and poetry. As always, we will be continuing our work with links to speaking, listening, reading and developing their application of the writing checklist. As part of our English lessons, children will be expanding their use of spelling and grammar including verbs, nouns, adjectives and common exception words (which can be found in the front of their Reading Journals). Your child will be given 10 spellings each week on a Friday and will be tested on them the following Friday. Head Teacher stickers are awarded to those achieving 100% and are highly valued by the children. Moreover, the most successful class will be visited by our beloved school mascot Leonardo for the entire day!

Reading

Reading is a vital skill in all areas of primary education and lies at the heart of our curriculum. In Year 1, emphasis is placed on Phonics – the foundation of reading. We have daily discrete sessions developing understanding of the different sounds and teach the children how to segment and blend words in order to read them. In Year 1, children have a Phonics Screening Test during the Summer term in which they will read 40 words, including pseudo words (referred to as 'alien' words) which ensures that they use their skills to decode. Children who experience regular reading at home, benefit from improved confidence and reading skills. Therefore, your support with reading at home is valued and appreciated. We will reward children for their efforts with home reading with certificates for 50, 100 and 150 times read at home. The government recommends daily reading with your child stating that parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers. Parents have the power to transform the attitudes of their children towards reading. If a child is unable to read, they will struggle to access all aspects of the curriculum.

Maths

At Newcomen Primary School, we believe that rigorous mathematics lessons . The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower key stage 1 is to ensure that pupils learn a thorough understanding of the building blocks of numbers on which every other aspect is built upon. This includes developing a deep understanding of the number system, ordering numbers and finding connections which can be applied to support calculations, such as learning the number bonds to 10. The mathematics curriculum is split into four major strands – number, measurement, shape and space – and will be revisited and built upon as the year progresses. All children will be encouraged to find maths links within everyday life, whether it is counting money in their money boxes or spotting numbers on the way home from school. Maths is everywhere! As we develop, we will promote the rapid, random recall of these facts. All children in Year 1 are expected to know and rapidly recall their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. This is the National Curriculum expectation. To develop their skills, at the start of the day, children complete a series of mental arithmetic questions to help them improve their understanding of mathematical concepts. Due to this fact, it is essential that your child arrives at school on time to complete their daily mental maths task.

The Wider Curriculum

In **History** the children will be learning about changes within living memory as well as exploring the lives of significant individuals such as Mary Anning, David Attenborough, Tim Peake, Neil Armstrong, Mae Jemison and Bernard Harris. In **Geography** the children will have the opportunity to learn about the continents and oceans and using world atlases. We will also be learning how to name and locate UK countries and capital cities. We will introduce the children to hot and cold locations and link this to our exploration of the four seasons in Science.

Art and Design Technology will also be linked to our geographical and historical studies. The children will have the opportunity to complete a sketch of a significant person, bake their very own Harvest bread, recreate a pencil sketch of Hokusai's Great Wave and try their hands at clay modelling. We will also be completing an observational drawing of a flower and the children will be building their own versions of the International Space Station in conjunction with studying the famous astronauts – Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong.

At Newcomen, we believe that a high-quality **Science** education provides the foundations for understanding the world. The children will be learning about the following exciting strands of Science this year: Animals – including humans, seasonal changes and weather, everyday materials and plants. As well as learning about the key concepts of these areas, the children will also have the opportunity to work scientifically by conducting fascinating experiments.

In **Religious Education (RE)**, the children will be examining some very pertinent religious questions such as how Christians celebrate Harvest and why Jesus and Easter are special to Christians. We will also be learning about Judaism with a focus on how Jewish people worship at home. Learning how both Jews and Christians believe the world was created will allow us to compare this with other creation stories such as the Australian creation myths, known by some Aboriginal peoples as Dreamtime.

Computing is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which we live. Over the year, the children will be learning the skills of Online safety, coding and animation. They will also be working on online painting software and applications and the website, 2email on Purple Mash. Online safety permeates all aspects of the computing curriculum.

Physical Education (PE) will begin by focusing on attack versus defence games before progressing to ball skills and then combining these two areas by playing ball sports. The children will go on to study modules of dance and gymnastics throughout the year. Health and wellbeing is an area of education that we constantly discuss with the children and this will take centre stage in PE in the Spring Term in addition to team building activities. We will then revisit ball skills in the Summer Term as the warmer weather returns and will focus on locomotion, which looks at how we move.

In **French**, the children will develop their love of learning another language predominately through fun speaking and listening activities including songs, role play and reading games. They will also incorporate their new words and phrases into daily routines such as the register and lunch time.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and evaluate various genres of music, including hip-hop, reggae, blues, folk, film, big band jazz, pop and western classical. We will learn to identify pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo and apply these skills when singing a range of songs for each genre. Children will also have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (a glockenspiel) and perform within a class setting.

Your children's well-being is of paramount importance. As such, our weekly **Relationship Education (RE)** sessions will be designed to support the children with this. The key themes we will be exploring: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

Important Information

Attendance - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of at school. If your child is not here, then they cannot learn. Please work with us to ensure that your child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

PE - Please ensure that your child has suitably labelled clothing which remains in school throughout the week. Class 3 has PE on a Wednesday and Class 4 on Thursday. The only jewellery acceptable is a watch and stud earrings (which are removed for PE) or taped up. Asthmatic children need a named inhaler in school at all times.

Spellings – Y1 have spelling tests on a Friday. Please ask your child for their Spelling Book and ensure that you review the spelling rule with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Equipment – Children are expected to bring their Spelling Books, Reading Record and reading books every day.

Thank you.