



# Autumn Term Newsletter 2025-2026

## Year 1

*"With Christ as our guide, we inspire and thrive".*

**Welcome:** Welcome back, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all the best for 2026.

For your information, PE will now be on a Friday so children will need to arrive in school dressed in their PE kits.

Book change will continue to be on a Monday, but we ask for reading books and records to be brought to school every day so that we can listen to your child read. We encourage children to read daily at home and it is a school requirement that children have at least 3 adult signatures each week in their reading records to indicate that they have read at home. Home learning will be set on Tuesday, and the children have a week to complete it and hand it in. If you have any questions, then please feel free to speak to any of us.

Below is an outline of what the children will be learning during the Spring term.

**Religious Education:** We will continue with the new RED curriculum and will be covering the following:

**Branch 3-Galilee to Jerusalem.** By the end of this branch, pupils will recognise and identify key people who encountered Jesus, acknowledging that he holds a special place in religious teachings. They will engage with the Gospel of Luke, retelling stories in various creative forms to deepen their understanding of these religious accounts.

**Branch 4-Desert to Garden.** The focus of this branch is to learn a little about the season of Lent as a time to prepare for Easter and to know the story of the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and resurrection. Pupils will experience Lent traditions as part of the school's prayer life and through the charitable activities in Lent as part of a school's Catholic life. Through the scripture stories they have heard, pupils have learned about the importance of forgiveness, how an encounter with Jesus changes some people forever, and how Jesus gives himself to others.

**Mathematics:** Below are the main areas that we will be covering and all skills learned are applied in real-life contexts.

We will begin with shape and identifying and naming 2D and 3D shapes and then creating patterns. Next we move onto Place Value within 20, as we explore number 11- 20 and develop a secure understanding using tens and ones which is crucial for future work on addition and subtraction. We will then be estimating and ordering numbers up to 20 on a number line and comparing numbers. We will also look at addition and subtraction within 20 and also looking at doubles and near doubles. As we continue into the Spring term, we will move onto place value within 50, look at length, height, mass and volume.

**Phonics:** We will continue using Supersonic Phonic Friends as our curriculum and we have daily phonic lessons.

**Reading:** We will be starting to use the new reading scheme, 'Pathways to read'. We will be focusing on whole class reading and looking at the text in greater detail. Our first text is 'The Koala who could' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field. Our second text will be 'The Friendly Mammoth' by Anna Terreros-Martin. We will continue to predict, discuss word meanings, read, retrieve and infer.

**Writing:** We will be starting to use the new writing scheme, 'Pathways to writing' our first unit will be based on the text 'The lion inside' by Rachel Bright. We will be focussing on using punctuating sentences and introducing using 'and' to join words and clauses. The second text is 'The curious text of the missing mammoth' by Ellie Hattie and Carla James Mountford. We will continue to build sentences and use suffixes including 'ing, ed, er, est' (where no change is needed to the root word, eg jumping, smallest)

**Grammar:** We will continue to punctuate sentences, using a full stop and capital letter. We will explore plurals using 's and es', adding 'ing' and 'ed' to verbs and using the comparatives er and est.

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**How you can help at home:** Read with your child on a daily basis and ask questions about the book as you read it. Encouraging your children to write where possible, ensuring that they use the correct punctuation and read back their sentences to check for sense. Practise counting forwards and backwards up to 20, starting at different numbers. Practise number bonds to 10 and 20. Find and read numbers in the 'real world.'

**Science:** We continue with our topic of exploring everyday materials and their uses. We then move on to recognising different types of weather and how they happen. Observe the changes that occur over the seasons and observe weather types, recording and measuring temperatures and rainfall, as well as exploring how plants and animals may adapt to seasons.

**Computing:** As we continue to become more confident at signing in and logging out of the Chrome Books, we complete our topic of grouping and sorting and then move on to pictograms and animated story books.

**History:** The theme is, 'When three queens ruled'. In this topic we are going to find out about three of the most famous queens that each ruled this country for a very long time. One lived nearly 500 years ago and one died very recently, so we will see how life has changed a lot over the centuries.

**Art:** We will be exploring sculptures and looking at the artists, Christo and Jeanne- Claude, Faith Bebbington and Brown and Wayne Garrett.

**Music:** Our theme is echo signing, composing word patterns and improvising. We will also be singing hymns and songs in the lead up to Lent.

**PE/Sport:** We will be focusing on gymnastics, balancing in different ways and invasion games where children will begin to learn play within a team.

**PSHE:** We will be looking at understanding difficult feelings, who our trusted adults are and how to stay safe in new places. Then we move onto road safety and emergency services.

**How you can help at home (in relation to the above subjects):** Find out about the famous figures we are studying in History. Computing: discuss how they can stay safe using technology in their own homes and visit the free website such as thinkuknow.com.


**Home Reading:** As well as set homework, your child should also spend time each evening reading for at least 10 minutes. He/she will bring home a book from school. This book must be read as your child will have been assessed and set to match their reading band age. They may also read a book of their own choice from home / the library alongside this if they wish. Each child will also receive a reading record. The record should be filled in every time the child reads at home (minimum 3 x per week). The children should make notes about what they have read each week and have this signed by a parent / carer. This will be checked in school weekly so any parental comments can also be communicated here.




**How you can help at home:** Teach your child that failure is a stepping-stone to success and make academic subjects feel relevant to your child. Try to involve games in learning as much as possible. Where possible, research some areas of learning as this will act as pre learning which will support your child being ready for the lessons.

- **Set a routine** – choose a regular time for home learning each day.
- **Create a quiet space** – free from distractions, with everything they need.
- **Encourage independence** – let them try first, then offer help if needed.
- **Talk about learning** – ask questions about their reading or maths.
- **Daily practice** – keep up with reading
- **Praise effort** – celebrate persistence as well as correct answers.
- **Stay connected** – check Google Classroom/IXL together and contact school if needed.


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**Read to Succeed Reward System.**



-  **Bronze Star = 35 Reads**  
You've started your reading journey—keep it up!
-  **Silver star = 70 Reads**  
You're halfway to greatness—amazing progress!
-  **Gold Star = 95 Reads**  
You're a reading champion—golden level achieved!

**Choose a book YOU love!**  
At the end of the year, your chosen book will be **gift-wrapped and personally presented** to you by Mr McDermott in a special celebration!



**Work hard. Read lots. Earn your reward!**  
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