

# Curriculum Letter Year 1

## Summer term – 2026



### Geography

This summer term in Geography, Year 1 children will explore the question “*Where in the world is Hedge End?*” They will build on their knowledge of the UK by revisiting the four countries and capital cities, while learning about settlements and the differences between villages, towns and cities. The children will explore where Hedge End is located and identify its features. They will take part in fieldwork to observe and recognise human and physical features in the area, as well as collect and record data about transport and weather. Children will also develop their mapping skills by creating simple maps of the school, using symbols, keys and basic compass directions.

### Art

The children will explore illustration through the work of Ben Cort, the illustrator of *Aliens Love Underpants*. They will learn to talk about an artist’s style, sharing what they like and noticing similarities between illustrations. Using their sketchbooks, children will experiment with drawing imaginative aliens using different lines, shapes and materials, and will design colourful, patterned “alien underpants” by mixing and applying paints. They will then create their own final painted artwork inspired by their ideas. As the term progresses, children will also be introduced to simple sculpture techniques, exploring clay and using tools to create textures before making their own 3D alien model. Finally, they will reflect on and evaluate their own artwork and that of their peers.

### RE

This term in RE, Year 1 children will explore the concepts of *celebrating* and *creation*. They will learn about Vaisakhi, a special festival in the Sikh faith, and why it is important to Sikhs. Children will also listen to and discuss Christian and Sikh creation stories, beginning to understand what these stories teach believers about the world and recognising some similarities and differences between them.

### Music

In music this term, our unit is called ‘Man on the Moon’ and will focus on the dimensions of timbre and texture. We will take inspiration from ‘Mare Tranquillitatis’ by Vangelis. We will then try to compose our own ‘Moon Music’ by selecting sounds and textures to create the same mood and atmosphere. We will write down our ideas using simple graphic scores. We will also sing songs and play rhythm games inspired by space travel and aliens! This will help reinforce our understanding of the steady beat and we will begin to look at

### History

This summer term in History, the children will explore the question “*How has space travel changed from Neil Armstrong’s time to my lifetime?*” They will begin by learning about Neil Armstrong and why he is a significant figure, before sequencing key events in his life on a timeline. Children will bring history to life through role play of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, helping them understand what it was like to land on the Moon. They will then compare space travel in the past with today, identifying similarities and differences in rockets and technology. Finally, children will learn about modern space exploration, including the International Space Station, and begin to think about what space travel might look like in the future.

### Design and Technology

The children will be learning about rockets and how they work. They will explore how rockets move using air and force, and learn about key parts such as the nose cone, fins and body. Children will investigate and evaluate different rocket designs, thinking about what makes them effective. They will experiment with a range of materials, practising skills such as cutting, shaping and joining, before designing their own simple rocket using drawings and labels. Using their designs, children will then create a rocket that can move using air, selecting appropriate materials and constructing a stable structure. Finally, they will test and evaluate their rockets, considering what worked well and how their designs could be improved.

### PE

This term in PE, Year 1 children will develop their fundamental movement skills through a range of multiskills activities, focusing on running and jumping. They will practise controlling their movements, improving balance, coordination and agility through fun games and challenges. Children will prepare for Sports Day (**20th of May**), building confidence as they take part in team events and develop their understanding of simple rules and cooperation. They will explore movement in gymnastics through the theme of traditional tales, creating simple sequences, and take part in yoga sessions to support flexibility, strength and wellbeing.

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### Maths

This term in Maths, Year 1 children will continue to build their understanding across a range of topics. They will begin by exploring multiplication and division through making equal groups, sharing and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Children will then move on to fractions, learning to recognise and find halves and quarters of shapes and quantities. In geometry, they will explore position and direction, using language such as turns and directions to describe movement. They will also develop their place value knowledge within 100, learning to count, compare and represent numbers. Later in the term, children will learn about money, recognising coins and notes and solving simple problems, before finishing with time, where they will tell the time to the hour and half past, and begin to understand sequencing events throughout the day.

### Science

This term in Science, Year 1 children will explore plants and seasonal change. They will learn to identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including trees, and understand the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. Children will investigate the basic parts of plants and trees, take part in planting and observing flowers, and notice changes over time. They will also explore plants in the local area through outdoor learning and develop their observational skills through drawing and simple data collection, including recording weather changes. Later in the term, children will learn about where food comes from and identify different fruits and vegetables, linking this to how plants grow and change across the seasons.

### Other useful information

PE days are Wednesday and Thursdays.

Please send in a water bottle each day which can be refilled in school.

**Phonics screening tests will take place between the 8th and 19th of June.**

Please name all uniform, water bottles, coats and bags.

### English

Some of our books in English this term will be –

- Aliens love Underpants
- The Way Back home
- The Man on the Moon

This term, the children will write a variety of genres including narratives, recounts and posters. We will focus on adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions and adding suffixes when there is no change to the root word. We will be also beginning to add cohesive devices such as fronted adverbials e.g. 'one day', 'the next morning'.

In daily handwriting sessions, the children will continue to practise cursive style of handwriting. We will introduce how to join letters, following the teach handwriting scheme.

### Phonics and Reading

We will continue to teach phonics using the Little Wandle scheme, twice a day. During phonics lessons, children write a dictated sentence which incorporates the focus sound from the session. Approaching the phonics screening test, we are increasing the amount of alien words children are exposed to and practising sounding and blending unfamiliar words.

Children will read in groups for reading practise 3 times a week. This term, we are increasing our focus on comprehension skills such as inference and retrieval using our writing text drivers.

### Reading books

Blue pack Little Wandle books and reading diaries to be handed in on a Friday and will be returned the same day with their new phonics book. Green pack books and reading challenge books to be changed at the children's leisure within independent time. Children will also have the opportunity to visit the library to swap and take out books of their choice on Tuesdays.