



## Year 1 Termly Information Sheet

### **Welcome to the Spring Term**

In Year 1 we have adult directed learning throughout the day alongside child-initiated learning when children have the opportunity to learn through play and explore their own interests. This includes outdoor play in the Year 1 outdoor area (grassed area at the front of the school.)

Our theme for this term is Around the World with Animals. We will be introducing this topic through the delightful series of texts, One Day on our Blue Planet by Ella Bailey. As part of our Science topic, we will use the book to look at animal groups, what they eat and how to take care of animals. As part of our Geography topic, we will be identifying and naming the seven continents and the surrounding oceans.

In Maths, our main focus this term will be measuring length using non-standard and standard measures; sequencing events such as the days of the week and months of the year; adding and subtracting one and two digit numbers; numbers to twenty where the part or the whole is unknown.

In RE, we will be looking at belonging which encompasses who we are and how we belong to different communities. As part of our studies, we will be visiting St Peter's Church and we will have a visit from a Rabbi.

In Computing the children will learn how to create digital paintings using an iPad and how to use symbols to code and create commands. We will also begin to explore logging onto and using simple tools on a chromebook.

In Design and Technology, the children will be using a range of tools and equipment to create structures. We plan, build and evaluate our designs while thinking about using the most appropriate joins to secure the parts.

The children will have a PE lesson each week with Mr Allen (our PE Coach) and a second PE lesson taught by their class teacher. Please bring in PE kits and leave them on the children's pegs. The focus for our P.E. this term is ball skills and fitness. In addition, the children will have daily opportunities for physical activity and development throughout their play.

The children will also have a music lesson each week with our music teacher Ms Dore. The focus this term is learning about Woodwind Instruments, including learning how to recognise flutes, clarinets, bassoons and oboes by how they look and sound. The children will also continue to work on pulse, rhythm and pitch through action songs that link to our new topic 'Around the world with animals'.

Planning, Preparation and Assessment time will be covered by Mr Allen and Mrs O'Sullivan in Sky and Aqua on a Wednesday morning until half term, then it will switch to a Wednesday afternoon after half term.

Please remember to send your child in with their book bag, water bottle and coat every day, and please name everything!

### Teaching phonics and learning to read

We will continue to use the same phonics programme called Essential Letters and Sounds. This programme supports children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers. To best support us in teaching your child how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school four times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. This is especially important as they continue to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. Once you have read the book with your child four times, please write and date a comment into their yellow reading record. We will check records on Mondays and Thursdays and books will only be changed if they have been read with and it has been written in the reading record four times.

It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a sharing book. These books are there for you to read with your child, helping to instil a love of reading from the very

beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child.

How you can help your child at home:

- Hear your child read daily
- Talk to your child about their day
- Look on the blog every Friday to keep up to date with our learning
- Encourage Maths practice in daily life. For example, adding and subtracting (within twenty), spotting 2D and 3D shapes in real life, doubling and halving amounts and continuing to practise counting in twos and tens.
- Encouraging your child to write lists, captions and sentences while focusing on pencil grip and letter formation.

#### Resources Request

To support your child's learning this term, we would really appreciate some help with resources for our topic activities. We would be grateful for donations of:

Cardboard tubes

Plastic bottle lids

Sellotape

Masking tape

Thick colouring pencils

Paper straws

Pritt sticks

Googly eyes

Pompoms

Paper plates

Books linked to our current topic (Animals around the world), this can be fiction or non-fiction.

Thank you for your support!

Please do not hesitate to speak to us at any time during soft start, after school or by requesting a telephone call via the office.

We are looking forward to working with your child this term.

Best wishes,

The Year 1 team









50 Recommended Reads for...

# Year 1 (ages 5-6)



2025-2026 Booklist

Which ones have you read?






## Favourite Storytime Books

-  **Look Up!**  
Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola
-  **The Dinosaur Next Door**  
David Litchfield
-  **The Bumblebear**  
Nadia Shireen
-  **Where to Hide a Star**  
Oliver Jeffers
-  **That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown**  
Cressida Cowell & Neal Layton
-  **Spyder**  
Matt Carr






## Funny Books

-  **The Big Cheese**  
Jory John & Pete Oswald
-  **Zebacadabra!**  
Kes Gray & Fred Blunt
-  **I Can Only Draw Worms**  
Will Mabbitt
-  **Splash Day!**  
Nick Sharratt
-  **Greg the Sausage Roll**  
Mark & Roxanne Hoyle & Gareth Conway

## Classic Books

-  **The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch**  
Ronda & David Armitage
-  **Paddington**  
Michael Bond & R. W. Alley
-  **The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark**  
Jill Tomlinson & Paul Howard
-  **Funnybones**  
Janet & Allan Ahlberg
-  **Gorilla**  
Anthony Browne






## Empathy-Boosting Books

-  **The Boy, the Troll and the Chalk**  
Anne Booth & David Litchfield
-  **Thunderboots**  
Naomi Jones & Rebecca Ashdown
-  **Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf**  
Craig Barr-Green & Francis Martin
-  **Step Into My Shoes**  
Alkisti Hallikia, Fotini Tikkou & Konstantine Matsoukas
-  **Me and My Hair**  
Kimberley Kinloch, Jessica Gibson & Sandra Becker Borree

## First Graphic Novels

-  **Bumble & Snug and the Angry Pirates**  
Mark Bradley






## Independent Chapter Books

-  **Isadora Moon Goes to School**  
Harriet Muncaster
-  **The Guinea-Pig Party**  
Holly Webb & Rosie Butcher
-  **Gruff Justice**  
Ross Montgomery & Marisa Morea
-  **The Cat and the King**  
Nick Sharratt
-  **Sidney and Carrie Have a Party**  
Lisa Thompson & Jess Rose

## Stories About Community & Culture

-  **The Boldest White**  
Ibtihaj Muhammad, S. K. Ali & Hatem Aly
-  **Eid for Nylah**  
Nizrana Farook & Zelma Firdausia
-  **The Great Henna Party**  
Humera Malik & Sonali Zohra
-  **The Can Caravan**  
Richard O'Neill & Cindy Kang



## Animal Stories

-  **Dolphin Boy**  
Michael Morpurgo & Michael Foreman
-  **The Pandas Who Promised**  
Rachel Bright & Jim Field
-  **Godfrey is a Frog**  
Alex Latimer
-  **Arlo the Lion Who Couldn't Sleep**  
Catherine Rayner
-  **The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish**  
Chloe Savage




## Storytime Chapter Books

-  **Adventuretime: Otter Chaos**  
Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre
-  **Harry the Poisonous Centipede**  
Lynne Reid Banks & Tony Ross
-  **Rabbit's Bad Habits**  
Julian Gough & Jim Field
-  **Hotel Flamingo**  
Alex Milway
-  **Huxley and Flapjack: Race to the Rescue**  
Alan MacDonald & Francesca Gambatesa
-  **Fantastic Mr Fox**  
Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake
-  **Call the Puffins**  
Cath Howe & Ella Okstad

## Poems & Rhymes

-  **A Whale of a Time**  
Lou Peacock & Matt Hunt
-  **There is a Season**  
Kerri Cunningham

## Information Books

-  **Fluffy, Flying Seed**  
Mary Auld & Dawn Cooper
-  **I Wonder Where I Am?**  
Shinsuke Yoshitake
-  **Coming to England**  
Baroness Floella Benjamin & Diane Ewen
-  **Flow with the Snow**  
Robert Tregoning & Oliver Averill
-  **Big Book of Boats**  
Luogo comune



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