



Superheroes



Welcome to Year One!

Welcome back from the Year One team - Mrs Haley, Miss Boon, Miss Macleod and Mrs Larcombe.

To help the children move smoothly from Reception to Year 1 and back into the routines of school, the first half term will be a gradual lead into the National Curriculum. Our topic this half term is 'Superheroes.' We will be encouraging the children to be independent learners who make their own choices - our main aim is that they enjoy their time back at school, and enjoy learning.



Next steps learning:

English writing - we will teach the children to write in a range of genres that includes lists, stories, invitations and letters. They will develop their understanding of sentence structure and improve their letter formation. They will use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.



English Reading - we will continue to widen the children's knowledge of phonics and we have a lovely reading area which will be used to encourage reading for pleasure.

Maths - practical activities will be used to improve counting and number recognition to 20. We will also be focusing on knowing our number bonds to 10 confidently and working out addition and subtraction problems using objects, number lines and drawing pictures.

Computing - as well as learning how to keep themselves safe online, the children learn how to turn on the computers and log on. They will begin to learn how to type and understand how the keyboard of a computer works.

RE - we will think about the importance of friendships and what makes us special. We will learn about special people from the Bible and listen to stories that explain why they are special.

Art - this term we will be learning about colour mixing. We will investigate how to mix primary colours to produce secondary colours. We will also explore how to make colours lighter and darker and then use this to design our very own 'Superhero' costume.

PE - the children will be learning to throw and catch accurately and will use these skills in simple games. In gymnastics they will create sequences using different actions and movements.

Geography - we will be focusing on the weather and how this varies throughout the seasons. The children will use a weather station to make observations and record information about the weather in autumn and winter. They will be encouraged to observe how sunrise and sunset change over the course of the year to help them discover that the hours of sunlight are longest in the summer and shortest in the winter.

Science - the children will be identifying and labelling parts of the human body and saying which part of the body is associated with each sense. We will use our developing understanding to write about our superheroes, describing which superpowers they have based on the five senses, for example, being able to smell danger.



A Toy's Life

English - we will learn about fiction and non-fiction books. Using their knowledge of non-fiction books, the children will find interesting information about toys from the past, such as spinning tops, a Jack in the Box and wooden rocking horses. They will also investigate how toys they may have - such as teddies and dolls - have changed over time by looking at artefacts and photographs.

Maths - the children will measure and compare the length of toys. We will continue to build on numeracy skills, such as accurate counting and halving and doubling of numbers and through problem solving e.g. There are 13 toys in a toy shop, a child comes along and purchases 2 toys, how many are left? Can you write a number sentence?

In the second half term, we will kick-start our topic with a visit from 'History Off the Page' who will create a toy museum in school. This interesting and exciting day will be the start of a stimulating cross curricular topic, 'A Toy's Life'. The hands-on day will give the children the opportunity to explore a variety of toys from the past, see how toys have changed and make comparisons to the toys they play with today.

Science - the children will have a variety of toys and artefacts from the past to explore. They will be making comparisons between old and modern toys to look at the different materials they are made from. They will also learn about the properties of a variety of everyday materials.



Useful information

- Encouraging your child to prepare for school each day by dressing themselves really helps the children develop a more independent attitude towards school and learning - perhaps use a checklist to help them. Year 1 pupils are expected to take responsibility for handing in their reading book on a Monday as well as any letters from home.
- Reading books will be changed on a Monday and kept at home all week. Re-reading books is valuable to practise skills and develop fluency and speed, so please encourage your children to read with expression and discuss the books at home.
- PE will be every Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure you send your child to school in their PE kit on those days. We do Outdoor PE throughout the year, so an outdoor kit will need to be worn as the weather gets colder. Please look at uniform policy for details.
- Homework will be issued every Friday and needs to be returned by the following Wednesday please. It will be a piece of maths, English or topic work and should take about 15 minutes to complete. The homework set will give the children a chance to revisit and consolidate the skills taught in class, as well as share their recent work with you.
- We will have a visit from the toy museum on Tuesday 2nd November and we are planning a trip to Hanningfield Reservoir in the summer term. The overall cost for trips, swimming lessons and other exciting learning opportunities in school is approximately £60. This is only a rough guideline but we hope this information helps your planning.
- Should you need to contact the Year 1 team you can reach us by email at the following email addresses:
Mrs.Haley@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or Miss.Boon@greattotham.essex.sch.uk