



Superheroes



Welcome to Year One!

Welcome back from the Year One team – Mrs Haley, Mrs McCarthy, Miss Grant and Miss Francksen.

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.



English Phonics and Reading – the children will continue to have 5 phonic lessons each week. They will be building on the sounds already learnt in Reception.

During the first half term they will learn these graphemes - / ai /ay play, /ow/ ou cloud, /oi/ oy toy, /ea/ ea each. They will also learn to read these tricky words – the, put, pull, full, push, to, into, I, no, go, of, he, she, we, me, be, was, you, they, all, are, my, by, sure, pure, said, have, like, so, do, some, come, love, were, there, little, one, when, out, what, says, here and today. The children will have 3 practice reading sessions a week. They will be reading fully decodable books which have been carefully matched to their knowledge of phonics and these will be sent home on a Wednesday.

The books they bring home on a Monday, will have been chosen by them to share and enjoy with you. **They are not intended for your child to read to you independently.** Please refer to your child's Sharing Record for more detail.

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.

Maths - practical activities will be used to improve counting and number recognition to 20. We will also be focusing on knowing our number bonds within 10 confidently and working out addition and subtraction problems using objects, number lines and drawing pictures. The children will also be exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

Computing - as well as learning how to keep themselves safe online, the children learn how to turn on the computers, log on and use a mouse. They will begin to learn the layout of the keyboard and how to start typing.

RE - we will be sharing the Christian creation story and thinking about the Garden of Eden. We will talk about what the world is like now and reasons why people look after the world.

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 use these skills in simple games. In gym we will explore different ways to move and create simple sequences.

Geography - we will be focusing on the weather and how this varies throughout the seasons. The children will 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, and how they would use them.

Our topic in the 2nd half term is 'A Toy's Life'.

History - the children will be given the opportunity to explore a variety of toys from the past. They will be able to see how toys have changed and make comparisons to the toys they play with today. By looking at artefacts and photographs they will also investigate how toys they may have - such as teddies and dolls - have changed over time.



English - we will learn about fiction and non-fiction books. To link with their History topic the children will be using their knowledge of non-fiction books to find interesting information about toys from the past, such as spinning tops, a Jack in the Box and wooden rocking horses. They will also be writing descriptions and poems about toys.

Maths - 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?

Music – the children will be singing songs linked to their senses and body parts. They will begin to understand what pitch, timbre and duration are and will explore this through untuned instruments.

Life skills – we will be learning about who cares for us, and how to work together as part of a team. The children will explore how to treat each other with respect and discuss kind and unkind behaviour. They will learn how to make good choices, how to be a good listener, and all about their 'Brilliant Brains'.

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 sharing books and record on a Monday as well as any letters from home.
- Your child will choose 2 books on a Monday and keep them at home all week to share with you. Sharing and talking about books helps your child to understand words and sentences. It helps to develop their vocabulary and develop listening and comprehension skills.
- PE will be every Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure you send your child to school in their PE kit on those days. For the first four weeks of term we will be doing gymnastics so please ensure your child has shorts. As the weather gets colder and we begin our games sessions, an outdoor kit will need to be worn. Please look at the uniform policy on the website, for details.
- We have arranged an 'Outdoor Learning Day' on 9th October. We are also planning a trip to Hyde Hall in the spring term. The overall cost for trips, swimming lessons and other exciting learning opportunities in school is approximately £50 over the year. 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 mrs.mccarthy@greattotham.essex.sch.uk