



St.Mary's Catholic Primary School

Autumn Curriculum Newsletter 2026 - Year 1 Ms Beecham

Mathematics

In the Autumn term, Year 1 will develop their understanding of **numbers to 10**, learning to count, read, write, compare and order numbers. They will explore **addition and subtraction**, using practical resources, pictures and number sentences to build confidence with number bonds. Children will also begin to investigate **2D and 3D shapes**, recognising, naming and describing their properties. Throughout the term, there will be lots of opportunities to develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills through practical and engaging activities.

English

- The Three Little Pigs
- A New Home for a Pirate
- Jail the Wolf
- Mary Seacole Fact file

We will be using both fiction and non-fiction texts.

- Focusing on the four pillars of sentence structure: finger spaces, capital letters, punctuation and phonics.
- Use phonics to read and spell
- Checking and editing writing

Religious Education

‘Creation and Covenant’

Children will be learning about how the ‘Church’ is made up of all of us. They will learn that God is the creator of all living things and that God desires to have a relationship with us because He loves us.

‘Prophecy and promise’

Children will be learning about

The teachings of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God’s promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ.

Geography - Spatial Sense

In Geography, Year 1 will be learning all about **maps and our world**. Children will explore aerial views and simple maps, learning how **symbols, labels and keys** help us find and understand different places. They will learn about **globes, the Equator and the four compass directions – north, south, east and west**. Children will also have opportunities to explore maps of their local area and create simple maps of their own, developing their understanding of where places are and how we can navigate the world around us.

History - Discovering History

In History, Year 1 will be learning about **the past and how we find out about it**. Children will discover what **historians and archaeologists** do and explore how photographs, stories, artefacts and other historical sources give us clues about the past. They will begin to develop an understanding of **chronology**, thinking about events that happened before they were born and long ago. Children will also learn about **significant people from the past, such as Mary Seacole**, explore simple family trees and begin to discover the history of their local area.

Science - The Human Body & Animals and Their Needs

In Science, Year 1 will be learning about **the human body and our five senses**. Children will identify and label key parts of the body and explore how we use **sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell** to understand the world around us. They will look more closely at how our **eyes and ears** work and how our senses can help keep us safe. Through simple investigations and observations, children will develop their scientific skills and will also learn about **sensory impairment**, including the inspiring life of **Helen Keller**.

In Autumn 2, they will be learning about **animals and their needs**. Children will explore different animal groups, including **mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians**, and learn how scientists group animals by their features. They will discover the difference between **herbivores, carnivores and omnivores** and explore what animals, including pets, need to survive and stay healthy. Children will also develop their scientific skills by **observing, comparing, sorting and describing animals**.

Computing-Computing Systems & Networks/Creating Media

In Computing, Year 1 will be learning about **technology and how it helps us in everyday life**. Children will become familiar with the main parts of a computer and develop their **mouse and keyboard skills**, including clicking, dragging, typing, editing and saving their work. They will also learn how to **use technology safely and responsibly** and understand who they can ask for help if something online makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

In Autumn 2, the children will explore how to **create pictures using a computer**. Children will experiment with different digital painting tools, including **brushes, colours, lines and shapes**, and learn how to choose the best tools for their artwork. They will create pictures inspired by different artists and explain the choices they have made. Children will also **compare creating art digitally with painting on paper**, discussing the similarities, differences and which methods they prefer.

Art and Design

In Art, Year 1 will be exploring **colour and painting**. Children will learn about **primary and secondary colours**, how to mix colours, and the difference between **warm and cool colours, tints and shades**. Inspired by the work of artists such as **Mondrian, Van Gogh, Vermeer and Monet**, they will experiment with different **brushstrokes and painting techniques** to create different effects. Children will also begin to talk about and **evaluate their own artwork**.

In Autumn 2, the children will be exploring **how artists use different types of lines** to create shapes, objects, patterns and imaginative pictures. Inspired by artists such as **Rembrandt, Miró, Paul Klee and Minnie Pwerle**, children will experiment with creating lines using

pencils, paint, string and other materials. They will develop their drawing skills by using different types of lines, **drawing with a ruler** and creating artwork both independently and collaboratively.

Design Technology - Cooking

Year 1 will be learning about **healthy eating and preparing food**. Children will follow a simple recipe to make **bean dip, tzatziki and vegetable sticks**, while developing practical skills such as **measuring, mixing, mashing, cutting and chopping safely**. They will explore the difference between **sweet and savoury foods** and **raw and cooked foods**, as well as learning why fruit and vegetables are important for keeping us healthy. Finally, children will **taste and evaluate** the food they have made.

PSHE

Being Me in My World

In PSHE, Year 1 will be learning about **feeling happy and safe at school and being part of a class**. Children will explore their **feelings, rights and responsibilities**, think about how their choices can affect others, and learn why we have rules to help everyone learn and feel safe. They will also develop skills for **working and playing positively with others**.

Celebrating Difference

In autumn 2, they will explore what makes **each of us special and unique**. Children will think about the **similarities and differences between themselves and others**, learn to value and respect these differences, and consider how their words and actions can affect how other people feel. The unit helps children understand that our differences are something to recognise and celebrate.

French

Greetings & Numbers: In Year 1, children will begin learning simple French vocabulary and phrases, including **greetings, polite expressions and numbers 1–10**. They will practise listening and responding to simple questions, while developing confidence and increasingly accurate pronunciation.

Colours & Animals: In Year 1, children will continue developing their French vocabulary by learning **numbers 11–20, colours and animals**. They will practise listening and responding to familiar questions, while building confidence and improving their pronunciation.

Music: Ukuleles

In Year 1, children will be introduced to the **ukulele**, learning where it comes from and how to hold and strum it correctly. They will explore **pitch, rhythm and note lengths**, while developing their confidence in playing simple music.

P.E

Ball Skills: In Year 1, children will develop key **ball skills**, including throwing, catching, rolling, bouncing and kicking. They will practise controlling and moving a ball with increasing accuracy, while developing **coordination, balance and teamwork** through games and activities.

Gymnastics: In Year 1, children will develop **balance, coordination and body control** through gymnastics. They will explore different ways of **travelling, balancing, jumping and rolling**, and begin to link movements together to create simple sequences.