Year 1 Autumn Term News 2026

Dear Year 1 Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to Year 1! I hope that you all enjoyed the Summer break and I look forward to meeting you all if I have not done so already. We have had the most wonderful start to the Autumn term and the children have settled in brilliantly. It really is a privilege to support your children in this next phase of their learning and I cannot wait to see what your children achieve throughout the year!

At the beginning of Year 1, the children are learning to transition from the play-based approach used in the Foundation Stage to a more formal teaching style. In order to support this in the Autumn term, the children are provided with learning opportunities which are developmentally appropriate to them as a year group. They are given 'Discovery and Choosing Time', which involves them exploring their classroom and choosing their own resources to guide their own learning. High-quality resources and teacher modelling are also provided so children's learning can be further extended through their interests.

The children are now becoming familiar with our new school rules – Ready, Respectful and Safe. We will continue to praise effort and achievement in all areas and hope to have lots of 'Legends' each week!

Our Year 1 Learning support assistants this year will be: Mrs Gilroy and Miss Fenney.

Curriculum

Our main topic in Autumn Term 1 will be all about Toys and looking at toys from the past and comparing these to some of the modern toys of today. This topic lends itself particularly well to the History side of the Jersey Curriculum as the children will be asking and answering questions about the past, using a range of sources to find out information and developing well in their historical enquiry skills.
We will be linking lots of areas of the curriculum to our Toy topic to help maximise the children's learning experiences and support a cross-curricular approach.

These will include:

- Reading key texts about toys from the past and present and writing fact files/missing reports on our favourite toys in our English lessons.
- Exploring the different materials that toys can be made out of (and looking at the properties of these) in Science.
- Sculpting and carving our own clay models of our favourite toys in Art.
- Sewing our own fabulous felt finger puppets in DT.
- Creating a class toy museum to encourage role play and Oracy skills within the provision.
- Visiting the Georgian House at 16 New Street to explore older toys and make comparisons between the past and today. The children will get the chance to play with real toys from the past here and dress up as they would have in those days.

Here is an overview of our subject topics for the term:

English – As a school, we deliver our daily phonics through the Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) programme.
In their reading lessons, children are given the opportunity to participate in key discussions about characters and plots, take part in role play activities and ask questions about the texts they read.
In their writing lessons, the children are supported in writing full sentences that are clear and have the correct use of capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and letter formations.
In addition to these English sessions, the children will also take part in handwriting and spelling practice and daily 1:1 reading and phonics sessions with an adult.

Maths – In Maths, we use a programme called, 'White Rose Maths'. White Rose Maths helps children develop their conceptual understanding of mathematics by using concrete objects, pictorial representations and abstract thinking. This programme is not just about teaching maths, it is about developing mathematical thinking skills. As a result, the children can become independent mathematicians who can recall and apply their mathematical understanding to a range of contexts and problem-solve, with confidence. The first focus of the scheme will be on 'Place Value (within 10)', which will involve the children sorting and counting objects, recognising numbers as words, counting on from any number, finding one more and one less, counting backwards within 10, ordering objects and numbers, and comparing numbers.

Science – In line with our toy topic, our science focus will be looking at everyday materials and the properties of toys. The children will spend time learning about the different types of materials, their properties and consider why some objects are made from certain materials, based on their properties.

We will also become weather experts, with a cross-curricular link to Geography, which will involve exploring the different types of weathers, climates and seasonal changes.

Physical Education – This term our PE is going to be led by sport coaches and myself (Miss Bolton). In these lessons, children will develop their gross motor skills, balance, coordination, and stamina which are the foundations for any sport. Our PE days this term are **Tuesday and Thursday.** Please ensure children come into school wearing their PE kit on these days.

PSHE - At Grands Vaux, we have recently introduced the Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship (SCARF) PSHE programme. SCARF aims to equip children for life, helping them really know and value who they are and how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world.

Computing – This half term, we will focus on looking at technology around us and the roles of computing systems and networks. The children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. The children will also consider how to use technology responsibly.

Art, Design and Technology – In Art, we will be focussing on the study of 3D Form, where the children will be learning how to manipulate clay in different ways and creating their own clay sculptures of their favourite toys. Our focus artist will be Henry Moore, who is infamous for his bronze sculptures.
For Design and Technology, we have been developing our sewing skills to create our own fabulous felt finger puppet toys!

RE – Over the Autumn term, we will be exploring the religion of Christianity through the key questions: 'What do Christians believe God is like?' and then 'Who do Christians say made the world?' after the half term break.

Music – We will follow the Kapow programme focusing on listening to different music and making music using instruments. We will be listening to songs and chants to create a steady rhythm.

Home Learning

In Year 1, homework consists of:
Reading – daily
Spellings – daily (test on a Friday)

Homework will be set on a Friday and will consist of a levelled reading book, a decodable ELS book and a library book and spellings. **The levelled book is for your child to read to you, the library book is for you to read with them and enjoy looking at together.** All children have been given a home learning folder to keep their spellings, reading diary and reading books in. Home learning folders need to now be brought into school **every day** so that children's reading logs can be used by staff at school.

Reading –It is the expectation that children read a small amount at home each day (at least 15 minutes, five times a week). While your child reads, actively listen and offer support when needed. Encourage them to sound out unfamiliar words, discuss the story and ask questions. In the reading log, please make a comment about their reading, highlighting any challenges or achievements you observed.

Reading Log: Your child should bring their reading log to school every day. Please ensure that whoever reads with your child records their reading in the log. This will help us monitor their progress and provide appropriate guidance based on their individual needs.

Spellings – Children will be given a weekly spelling sheet on a Friday which they should learn at home ready to be tested on the following Friday. Their spellings will consist of a mixture of words from our phonics lessons that week and a selection of the first 100 'Harder to Read and Spell' words; these are all words which they will frequently use in their writing and it is important that they are able to spell these correctly. Most of these words are also not phonetically plausible (and cannot be sounded out) therefore they will need to be practiced regularly in order to be committed to memory.

Snacks and water bottles
To support children's learning and wellbeing, all snacks brought into school should be healthy choices. Suitable snacks include fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers and other nutritious options.
We ask that children do not bring sugary snacks into school. Foods that are high in added sugar can cause rapid increases and decreases in energy levels, which may affect concentration, focus and readiness to learn. Healthier snacks help to provide more sustained energy throughout the day and support children's overall health.
Please do not send chocolate, crisps, biscuits or sweets as snacks for school.
Squash, fruit juices, fizzy drinks etc are not allowed. Please ensure snack pots are clearly named to avoid them being misplaced.

Other – Please ensure that jumpers, cardigans, PE tops, book bags and lunch boxes are all **clearly labelled**.

I am looking forward to an exciting term ahead, getting to know you and your children and being part of their learning journey.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bolton
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