

Year 1

Curriculum Overview

Autumn 2



Welcome to our Curriculum Overview for this half term. We are excited to share the learning that will be taking place across the curriculum over the coming weeks. This overview is designed to help you understand what your child will be learning in school and provide some simple ideas for supporting their learning at home.

The home learning suggestions are entirely optional and are intended to encourage discussion, curiosity and a love of learning beyond the classroom. As always, regular reading, practising key skills and talking about learning together can make a significant difference to children's confidence and progress. We look forward to another successful half term of learning and achievement.

Mr Gee

Class Information	Important Days	Dates for Your Diary
Remember your reading book and reading record every day.	Wednesday: Library book change	Monday 9 th November and Wednesday 11 th November – parents' evenings
School meals should be booked by 9pm on a Wednesday.	Thursday: Reading book change and Spelling Quiz	Friday 13 th November – Children in Need
Please ensure pupils come to school in correct named uniform, including for PE.	Friday: New spellings given out	Friday 4 th December – FoDG Christmas Quiz
Remember to send any extra homework from the list below or other ideas for 5 extra Dojo points. Children can receive 5 homework Dojo's each day.	PE - Wednesday and Friday	Monday 7 th December – Whole School Carol Concert at St James' Church

Subject	Content Covered	Ideas to Support at Home
English	Instructions We will look at: • Command sentences using imperative verbs • Sequence steps logically • Capital letters and full stops • Numbered steps • Equipment list as layout • <i>Oracy: clear spoken instructions using sequencing for a partner to follow.</i> Poetry We will look at: • Build images through word choice; • Use repetition/refrain for effect	Chef's Recipe Instructions: Write a simple recipe at home (such as making a sandwich or a fruit salad). Help your child list the Equipment at the top, then write Numbered steps using strong imperative (bossy) verbs like <i>Mix, Cut, Spread, or Pour</i>. Remind them to start every sentence with a capital letter and end with a full stop. Robo-Partner Oracy Game: Play a fun spoken instruction game where one of you acts as a robot and the other gives instructions! Use clear sequencing words (<i>First, Next, Then</i>) and bossy verbs (e.g., "<i>First, turn right. Next, walk three steps.</i>") so the robot can safely reach a target. Step-by-Step Treasure Maps: Have your child write a set of numbered instructions to hide a "treasure" in the house or garden. They can test their instructions

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	- Keep writing short (lines/phrases/sentences) - Capital letters and full stops where appropriate (no focus on ?/!) <i>Oracy: Perform lines with pace and volume to match meaning and rhythm.</i>	on a partner or family member to check if the steps are logical and easy to follow. Sensory Nature Poetry: Go on a nature walk and collect vivid words to describe what you see, hear, or feel (e.g., <i>crunchy leaves, cold wind, bright sun</i>). Help your child write a short poem using brief phrases or lines to build a clear picture. Repeat & Perform Poems: Choose a simple repetitive line or refrain for a poem (such as <i>"I see the rain, tap tap tap"</i> or <i>"Down goes the snow, soft and slow"</i>). Practice performing the poem aloud together, adjusting your volume and pace to match the rhythm and meaning.
Maths	Addition and subtraction (within 10) Geometry	Everyday Addition & Subtraction Stories: Use real objects around the house (like cutlery, socks, or snack items) to tell simple stories. Ask questions like: <i>"There are 4 grapes on your plate and I give you 3 more—how many altogether?"</i> or <i>"You have 7 lego bricks and we take 2 away—how many are left?"</i> Target 10 Games: Practice pairs of numbers that add up to 10 using fingers, ten-frames, or playing cards (removing picture cards). Challenge your child to quickly tell you the missing partner to make 10 (e.g., <i>"I show 6, how many more to make 10?"</i>). Shape Scavenger Hunt: Hunt for 2D shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle) and 3D shapes (cube, cuboid, sphere, cylinder, pyramid) around your home. Ask your child to name them and count their sides or faces (e.g., <i>"How many sides does this window have?"</i>). Build with 3D Shapes: Use cereal boxes, toilet paper tubes, and tin cans to build towers or castles. Talk about which 3D shapes stack easily (flat faces) and which ones roll (curved surfaces). Position & Movement Challenge: Use geometry vocabulary during playtime or when tidying up (e.g., <i>"Put the bear on top of the box," "Place the car next to the book,"</i> or <i>"Take two steps forward and turn halfway round"</i>).
Science	Our Science focus will be Everyday Materials. We will look at: - Distinguishing between an object and the material from which it is made. - Identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials, including	Material Hunt Around the Home: Go on a scavenger hunt through different rooms! Help your child name what everyday items are made of, identifying basic materials such as wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, rock, paper, and fabric. Describe What You Feel: Practice using describing words (properties) when touching different objects.

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	wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock. - Describing the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. - Comparing and grouping together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.	Ask questions like: <i>"Is this spoon hard or soft?"</i>, <i>"Is your jumper smooth or rough?"</i>, or <i>"Is this window clear or shiny?"</i> Sorting Objects into Groups: Gather 5–10 items from around the house (like a wooden spoon, a metal key, a plastic toy, and a cotton sock) and ask your child to sort them into groups by their material or property (e.g., all the shiny things together). The "Why Is It Made Of..." Game: Talk about why materials are chosen for specific jobs using fun "what if" scenarios (e.g., <i>"Why wouldn't an umbrella made of paper work?"</i> or <i>"Why are windows made of glass instead of wood?"</i>). Sink or Float Testing: Fill a basin or bath with water and test household items (with supervision) to see if they float or sink, encouraging your child to predict what will happen before dropping each item in.
PE	This half-term we will be focusing on agility, balance and coordination within PE. We will look at: - Travelling - Balancing - Differentiating Force - Sending - Reactions - Receiving	Travelling Animals & Obstacles: Practice moving around the garden or living room using different travelling movements (slithering, hopping, galloping, skipping, or tiptoeing). Set up simple markers to change speed or direction. Balanced Statues: Play musical statues where your child has to freeze in different balanced poses—try balancing on 1 foot, on tiptoes, or using 3 points of contact (e.g., 2 hands and 1 foot). Hold each pose for 5 to 10 seconds. Soft & Hard Force Challenge: Explore <i>differentiating force</i> by rolling or throwing balls of different sizes/weights (or soft rolled-up socks) into a target, like a laundry basket. Ask: <i>"How much force do you need to reach a target close by vs. one far away?"</i> Send & Receive Games: Practice sending (rolling, underarm throwing, or kicking) a soft ball to a partner and receiving (catching or stopping) it smoothly using two hands or the inside of a foot. Reaction Time Catch: Drop a beanbag, soft toy, or small ball from head height and challenge your child to react quickly and catch it before it hits the floor (or after just one bounce).
RE	Our RE question will be Why are festivals important? We will look at: Purpose & Symbols: Celebrations mark special occasions using shared elements like candles, gifts, and special food.	Share Family Traditions: Talk together about special family celebrations, birthdays, or festivals you enjoy. Discuss the symbols you use (e.g., candles, special meals, or card/gift giving) and why gathering together matters to your family.

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	- Christian, Jewish & Muslim Observances: Harvest Festival focuses on gratitude and giving; Sukkot involves building shelters to remember Moses; Eid marks the end of Ramadan's month of fasting. - Diwali Traditions: Hindus celebrate Diwali with diya lamps and fireworks, remembering the stories of Rama and Sita.	Explore Light & Symbols: Create simple crafts like paper lanterns, Diwali diyas (clay oil lamps), or light a candle safely at dinner to explore how light is used across different faiths (such as Diwali, Eid, and Hanukkah). Storytelling Time: Read or watch child-friendly retellings of festival stories together, such as the Hindu story of Rama and Sita or stories about Eid celebrations, focusing on the shared themes of light, joy, and togetherness.
PSHE	We will be looking at Bullying, Responsibility and Rules. We will cover: - What is bullying? - Why is name calling unkind? - How can I be an ally? - How can I be responsible? - Why we have different rules in different places? - What can happen when rules are broken? - What do the police do?	Exploring Rules in Different Places: Discuss why we have different rules at home, at school, on the road, or in a swimming pool. Talk about what might happen if rules were broken (e.g., <i>"If we don't look both ways before crossing the road, it isn't safe"</i>). People Who Help Us (The Police): Talk about the role of the police in keeping our communities safe, enforcing laws, and helping people in emergencies. You could read a storybook about community helpers or notice police officers and vehicles when out and about. Understanding Bullying vs. Unkindness: Talk with your child about what bullying means—helping them understand that bullying is unkind behaviour that happens repeatedly on purpose. Discuss how words can hurt feelings and why name-calling or excluding others is always unkind.
History	The Great Fire of London We will look at: - Knowing that the Great Fire of London started in 1666 on Pudding Lane. - Understanding how the fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery. - Explaining reasons why the fire spread so quickly (house close together, building materials). - Understanding how the fire was put out (fire breaks, water from the Thames). - Explaining the significance of Samuel Peeps and his diary entries in finding out about the fire.	Pudding Lane Bakery Storytime: Talk about how the fire began in 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. You could even bake simple bread rolls or biscuits together to bring the bakery story to life! Why Did It Spread? (Building Challenge): Use wooden blocks or empty cardboard boxes placed closely together to show how 17th-century wooden houses were built side-by-side. Talk about how dry wood, thatched roofs, and strong winds allowed the flames to jump quickly from house to house. Firefighting Then vs. Now: Discuss how people put out the fire back then using leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames, as well as creating "firebreaks" (pulling down houses to stop the flames from spreading). Compare this with modern fire engines and equipment today. Be Samuel Pepys (Keep a Diary): Learn about Samuel Pepys and how his famous diary entries helped us discover what happened during the fire. Practice keeping a "secret diary" at home for a day, writing or drawing key moments just like Samuel Pepys did.

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		Map Search & Thames Walk: Look at a map of London together to locate Pudding Lane, the River Thames, and St Paul's Cathedral, tracing where the fire travelled and imagining what the city looked like over 350 years ago.
Art	Portraits We will look at: • Pablo Picasso was famous for founding the Cubist movement. • A portrait is a picture of one person or a small group of people. • A self-portrait is a picture of yourself. • Warm colours (yellow, orange, red etc) and cool colours (blue, green etc) are used to portray feelings. • Abstract art is not realistic. • Tints are created by adding white. • Tones are created by adding black.	Mirror Magic Self-Portraits: Give your child a mirror and challenge them to draw a self-portrait! Encourage them to look closely at their unique features—their eyes, nose, mouth, and hair—and draw what they <i>really</i> see. Picasso's Cut-and-Paste Portraits: Explore abstract art by creating a portrait inspired by Pablo Picasso and Cubism. Cut out facial features from magazines or draw them in different shapes (triangles, squares) and rearrange them in a surprising, non-realistic way! Colour My Feelings: Talk about how colours can show different moods. Ask your child to use warm colours (yellow, red, orange) in their portrait to show happiness, and cool colours (blue, green) for feelings like calmness or sadness. Meet a Portrait: When out and about, look at pictures of people together (portraits) in books, photos, or even magazines. Ask questions like: "<i>Is this picture of one person or a group?</i>", "<i>Does it look realistic, or abstract like Picasso's?</i>" Mixing Tints and Tones: Experiment with paints or crayons! Practice making a tint by adding white to a favourite colour to make it lighter, and a tone by adding just a little black to make it darker. Talk about how these new shades make the portrait look.
Music	Tempo: Snail and Mouse We will look at: • Demonstrating slow and fast with bodies and voices. • Demonstrating slow and fast beats whilst saying a rhyme and using an instrument. • Performing a song using a singing voice. • Performing with an instrument. • Singing in time from memory with some accuracy. • Keeping a steady pulse	Slow & Fast Body Movements: Play music with different tempos at home and invite your child to move along—march like slow, giant elephants to a slow beat, or scamper like fast little mice to a quick beat. Speed Up, Slow Down Nursery Rhymes: Recite familiar nursery rhymes (like <i>Jack and Jill</i> or <i>Hickory Dickory Dock</i>) at different speeds. Try clapping, tapping a cushion, or playing a shaker slowly, then gradually speed up to see if they can keep the beat. Home Kitchen Concert: Practice singing favourite songs from memory using a clear singing voice. Use simple kitchen items (like a wooden spoon on a plastic bowl or a rice shaker) to play along to the steady pulse as you sing. Freeze & Tempo Game: Play a game where you sing or play an instrument slowly or quickly. When you

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		stop playing or freeze, your child must stop too! This helps build concentration and a strong sense of internal timing. Perform for the Family: Encourage your child to put on a short performance for family members or soft toys, singing a song from memory while keeping a steady beat on their homemade instrument.
Computing	Creating Computing We will look at: • Using paint tools to draw a picture. • Creating a jigsaw using a digital device and share it so that others can play. • Creating a placing game in 2DIY. • Creating images and use these to make a game.	Talk About Tech Safety: While using devices at home, talk about safe digital habits—like asking an adult for permission before opening apps, sharing creations safely, and taking regular breaks from screens. Digital Art Time: Use a kid-friendly paint app or software (like MS Paint, Tux Paint, or 2Paint) on a tablet or computer to draw a picture. Practice using different tools like the paintbrush, paint bucket fill, line tool, and eraser.