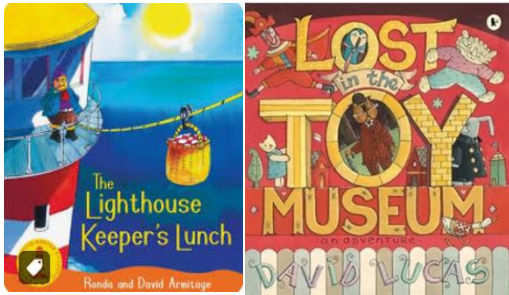


Year 1, Spring 2, Curriculum Learning

Dear Parents/carers,

The days are getting brighter, the signs of Spring are starting to show and with that includes the arrival of Spring 2. We have an exciting half term ahead that is filled with lots of fun opportunities and learning. Year 1 pupils will become historians as they travel back in time to dig fossils with Mary Anning and a more current significant figure, David Attenborough. They will become scientists and investigate and classify animals including humans. We will continue to embed the importance of phonics and early reading. This term we have held a parent workshop to inform you of the upcoming phonics screening check and expectations of reading in Year 1. We have welcomed a new role play area for the children which is a Pet Shop. We are passionate about play and how it enhances learning. If you have any old pet equipment, paper food boxes/packaging or photos of your pets, please share them with us. As always, we thank you for your continued support. We look forward to all the great learning that has been planned in Spring 2.

English



In English this term, our first unit of learning is based on the story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' by Ronda Armitage. Children will immerse themselves in the story, listening, discussing, making predictions and expressing their opinions. As the children begin to get familiar with the story we will retell the story orally with use of key vocabulary, descriptive language, pictures, actions and speech bubbles. Children will write a letter of advice for the fisherman from Mr or Mrs Grinling. Children will produce a main outcome which will see them innovate the original story and write their own called 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Bad Day.'

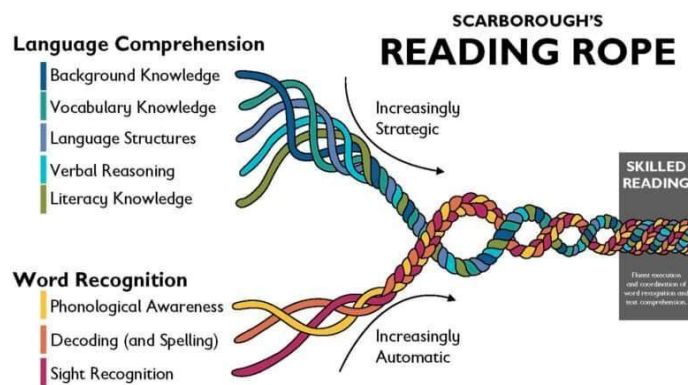
Our second unit of learning will be focused around 'The in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas. Inspired by the story children will create their own toy character and a setting to produce their own story. They will use adjectives to describe the appearance of their toy character and use verbs to think about the movements made by their character. Children will then use a planning template to map out their ideas. Once we have produced our ideas we will use key strategies to write our stories. We will say out loud what we are going to write about, compose each sentence orally before writing it and demonstrate using our phonetic knowledge to write.

Phonics

Children will continue to progress through the Read Write Inc programme and read books matched to their reading level. Children will take part in daily Phonics lessons that are fast paced, well sequenced and engaging to improve their sound knowledge and decoding abilities. Most children have already been exposed to some set 3 sounds, we will continue to consolidate these sounds and teach the remaining sounds. The children have been grouped into new phonics groups based on their understanding and application of set 2/3 sounds. We will continue to communicate to parents the sounds children have learnt so all of the children can practise these sounds at home too. We will also continue to have a big focus on speedy reading this term. The children will aim to read words quickly by using the Fred Talk strategies of segmenting and blending sounds in their head and then reading the word out loud. This is to develop their fluency in reading. Please ensure your child brings in their reading wallet everyday so that they can participate in reading opportunities using their own levelled books. We will send home real word and alien word reading sheets as additional homework. We went into more detail during our Parent Phonics Workshop on Wednesday, February 25th, 2026. For anyone who couldn't attend, the PowerPoint presentation has been shared for you to view.

Core book challenge

We are now at the halfway point of the academic year! How are you doing with your core book challenge? Which books have you enjoyed the most? Are there any stories that you haven't liked? Come and share it with us! We really love the confidence and passion pupils show when sharing their 'Tell Me Grid.' Remember that all children have the whole year to complete this reading challenge. Pupils can hold onto a book for a maximum of 2 weeks to ensure everyone can read all the books. The Tell me Grids are a very important part of the challenge as it promotes comprehension and inference skills which are skills in addition to phonics that make a fluent reader. Below is a visual on how we see fluent readers. It is a combination of language comprehension and word recognition.



History



This term in History we will be studying the lives of two significant individuals in the past and present who have contributed to national and international achievements. The children will first learn about who Mary Anning was and what she did. We will then look closely at what Mary Anning discovered. To further enrich their learning, children will have an opportunity to create their own fossils out of clay. Following on from this we will learn about who Sir David Attenborough is and what he does. We will then look closely at his achievements. Finally, we will

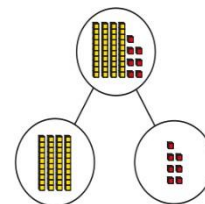
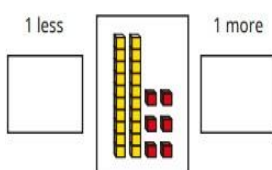
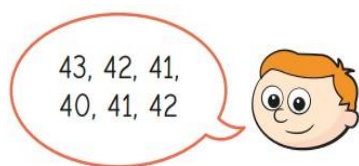
compare Mary Anning and Sir David Attenborough, thinking about any similarities and differences in their journeys.

Science



In Science our unit of learning is based on Animals including Humans. We will start by looking at what an animal is, thinking about the different ways they might move. We will make links to our previous unit on plants and trees, by talking about how animals are different to plants. Pupils will work scientifically to identify, classify and group animals. We will look at the different groups of animals such as mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. We will look closely at the features of each group of animals. Children will sort animals into groups and be able to talk about why they have put them there. They will then think about any similarities and differences between groups of animals based on their features. We will also learn about the food of animals, using key vocabulary such as omnivore, carnivore and herbivores to describe animals.

Maths



This term children will develop on their place value learning by focusing on numbers between 20- 50. First we will orally count forwards and backwards from 20-50 and learn to recognise these numbers. The children will then recap the equivalence of 10 ones and 1 ten using representations such as a ten frame or a bundle of 10 straws. We will use this concept to represent numbers 20, 30, 40 and 50. Children will then learn a range of skills such as counting by making groups of 10, represent them in part whole models, estimating on a number line to 50 and finding 1 more and less of given number up to 50. This unit of learning will be followed by the unit based on Length and Height where the children will compare lengths and height, measure length using objects and measure length in centimetres. As well as the Mass and Volume unit where children will understand, measure and compare mass. They will then measure and compare capacity.

Exciting new Maths launch- NumBots



NumBots is an exciting online maths programme designed for young learners, giving children a fun and interactive way to develop their number skills. It provides a new maths opportunity where children can practise counting, addition on, and subtraction through engaging games that encourage both speed and accuracy. The programme includes a Story Mode where children progress through levels by solving challenges and a Challenge Mode that tests their skills in short, timed games, keeping the experience lively and motivating.

Children are expected to spend at least 15 minutes a day on NumBots to build confidence and fluency in key number facts. Parents can follow their child's progress, see which areas they are mastering, and celebrate

their achievements along the way. By practising a little each day, children strengthen their maths foundation in a way that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

You should have already received a letter with your child's login details. Logins have also been stuck at the back of your child's reading records for easy access. Before half term an email was sent with an attached PDF presentation that guides you with the logging in process and navigating through the programme. If you need any further support with using NumBots please come and speak to us.

Personal, Social and Health Education



In PSHE children will explore the unit 'Healthy Me'. We will begin by understanding the difference between being healthy and less healthy, and know some ways to keep ourselves healthy such as exercise, washing our hands and having a balanced diet. Children will learn how to keep clean such as brushing their teeth and changing clothes frequently. They will understand how germs cause disease/illness and that medicines can help them if they feel poorly. We will discuss the importance of using medicine to keep us safe and healthy the importance of having an adult to support

with this. We will then learn about how to keep safe when crossing the road, and about people who can help us to stay safe.

DT

In DT, our first unit of learning is all about 'mechanisms.' Our key question for this unit is 'How can you make



a picture move?' Children will be shown simple movement by sliding mechanisms and understand push and pull to make something move. First the children will create a paper weave to practise the skills they will need to use when making their own product in the upcoming sessions. Then they will learn about three examples of slider mechanisms and be shown how each is made. They will have a go at practising a chosen slider mechanism. Finally, the children will design a slider

product such as a greetings card or novelty toy which has a movable image and create it. Our second unit is based on 'Textiles.' Children will develop their skills from Spring 1 by create a running stitch using wool and a needle. They will be introduced to a range of open weave fabrics. Finally, children will apply their sewing skills to make a hand warmer monster.

Religious Education



In RE we will continue to follow the Tower Hamlets syllabus. This term we will continue with our key question 'Where is a sacred place for believers to go? We will begin by identifying the Jewish place of worship and the significant features within a synagogue. Then we will look at the Muslim sacred place of worship, similarly looking at the key features. The children will then find similarities and differences between different places of worship including the

church that we learnt about last term. We will discuss why places of worship are important to our community. We will also learn about the Easter Story and Ramadan and Eid as upcoming events. If there is a celebration your family will be taking part in this term, we would love to hear about it. Please come and inform us so we can share with our class communities.

Music



Children will continue to learn Music with our Junior Jam specialist teacher Dolvani. This term children will focus on how they can create sound with their bodies, their voices and with instruments using ostinati. They will learn the difference between lyrics and instrumentals and look into the sounds of different instruments before creating soundscapes. Children will investigate body percussion and begin composing using these sounds. The class will learn about graphic scores and explore the different ways of interpreting them, as everyone is unique in their way of thinking. Children will improvise question and answer phrases and link this with their compositional skills.

Computing



Children will be continuing their learning Computing with our Junior Jam specialist teacher Ridwan. In Computing this term, children will learn be introduced to digital photography in the modern era. They will learn about the basic principles of photography such as focal point, foreground and background, and the importance of light. Children will also learn about photo editing using apps such as Adobe Photoshop Express. They will have a different project each week introducing a new keyword. Each week they will learn how that keyword translates when taking their photo and how it improves it. Keywords: Focus, Focal Point, Background, Foreground, Light, Rule of thirds, Limb chop, Perspective.

PE



PE will take place twice a week with specialist teachers. On Tuesday the children will be taught by our sports coach focusing on tennis skills. On Thursday the children will be taught by our Junior Jam teacher Tom. The focus will be Football. Children will be taught valuable techniques such as ball mastery, passing, ball control, shooting and tackling. In addition, children will also get to learn and understand the rules, teamwork and good sportsmanship. Also, they will start to be slowly introduced to duelling and competing for the ball, which is an important part of football.

Important dates and events:

- Wednesday 25th February 2026- Parents Phonic Screening Workshop
- Friday 6th March 2026- World Book Day
- Monday 9th March 2026- Lion Class Trip to Cubitt Town Library (10:30PM- 12:30PM)
- Wednesday 11th March 2026- Panda Class Trip to Cubitt Town Library (10:30PM- 12:30PM)
- Monday 9th – Friday 13th March 2026- British Science Week
- Monday 23rd March 2026- Home project due
- Friday 27th March 2026 - Last day of term, 1PM finish

This term we will be doing the following:

Spelling/ grammar	Spelling sheets given out on Friday (spell check following Friday)
Reading record	Please read with your child during the week and sign their reading record. Checked every Friday.
Real and alien word reading sheets	Part of phonics screening preparation. Given weekly, every Friday
RWI reading book and RWI additional book	Books changed weekly or every 3 days (dependent on group)
Core Book Reading Challenge and Class Library books	Changed every Friday
PE	Tuesday PM & Thursday PM

Daily reminders: Please make sure all jumpers/ cardigans are labelled

Our uniform consists of:

- A purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Purple or white polo shirt with school logo
- Black trousers, black skirt or black pinafore
- Lilac/purple school gingham dress (summer)
- Black shoes
- If a headscarf is worn this should be black, white or purple

Our PE kit consists of:

- A white polo shirt with school logo
- Black jogging bottoms or black shorts
- Black plimsolls or suitable trainers

Water: please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school.

Book bag: Please check regularly and take out letters and communication.

Homework:

Year 1 home learning involves weekly spelling and daily reading of phonics book. Additional books in book bag can also be used to do home reading.

This term's homework project is due on Monday 23rd March 2026.

The project is to create your own magical pet. You can draw, build or collage a model of your pet and then write a fact file telling us what your magical pet is like. Does it have super power? What does it eat? Where does it live? What things do you have to do to look after it? Children will receive further information and guidance on Friday 27th February 2026.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and we hope you are well informed about your child's learning this half term.

Yours sincerely,
Hafsa and Naimah

Science Key Vocabulary

☰ Tier 2 multiple meaning or high frequency		☰ Tier 3 subject specific	
blood	red liquid found inside animals	mammal	a warm-blooded animal that makes milk for its babies
senses	the things that make us aware of the world	amphibian	animal that lives on land and in water
young	another word for babies	reptile	animal with cold blood and scaly skin
feathers	things that grow out of a bird's skin	herbivore	animal that eats plants
fur	soft hair found on some animals	carnivore	animal that eats other animals
scales	thin plates on the skin of fish and reptiles	omnivore	animal that eats plants and animals

History Key Vocabulary

☰ Tier 2 multiple meaning or high frequency		☰ Tier 3 subject specific	
legacy	the result of your actions	fossil	rock that holds remains of creatures that lived millions of years ago
inspire	someone who makes you want to do something	documentary	factual film or television programme
revealed	show others something they didn't know	significant	worth paying attention to
explore	travel through unknown places	naturalist	person who studies animals and plants
similar	having some of the same qualities	expedition	a journey of exploration

Complex Speed Sounds Chart

Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
			gn		c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		j	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck		gu		g							
	ch				ge							
					dge							

Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				<u>a-e</u>	<u>e-e</u>	<u>i-e</u>	<u>o-e</u>
					ai	y	ie	oa
					a	ea	i	o
						e	y	oe

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
<u>u-e</u>			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							