



What is my child learning in Year 1 ...



WELCOME BACK!



School Values



Everything we do at St Thomas' CofE Primary Academy is built upon our values of thankfulness, fairness, forgiveness, trust and celebration. Our core Christian values underpin the British values of democracy, the rule of law, tolerance, respect and individual liberty and are closely linked. Each half term we focus on one of our values through our class teaching and worship.

Our Gospel value this half term is Thankfulness, and our focus British Value is Democracy. In Year 1, we will be exploring what it means to be thankful through different stories from the Bible. We will start by linking our value to our RE lessons and look at how Christians believe God created the world and what we are thankful for in our own world. We will also reflect on how we can show thankfulness in our daily lives, both at school and at home. We will be having a visit to school from our local MP David Williams this half term.

RE



In RE we will be exploring Christianity and the Christian view on Creation. Our key question is: Who to Christians say made the world?

We will share and discuss the creation story (Genesis 1:1-2.3). We will also be considering:

- * Why do Christians look after the world?
- * What happens at Harvest and why?
- * How do artists show the Creation?

English



Focus stories:

Through these high-quality texts, we will explore the problem in the story, the characters feelings and actions, how the problem is solved. We will learn and join in with repeated phrases and dramatize the stories through freeze-frames and hot-seating, and develop our vocabulary. We will also use the key reading skills of retrieval, prediction and sequencing.

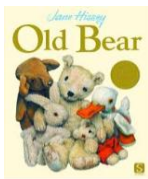
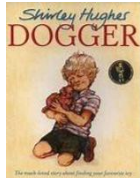
In writing, we'll focus on rehearsing, developing and mastering the core foundational skills of early writing:

- forming lowercase and capital letters correctly,
- writing simple dictated and composed sentences
- using finger spaces between each word
- using capital letters and full stops to demarcate each sentence

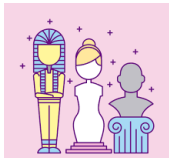


Little Red by Bethan Woollvin



 	We begin the term with this great twist on the traditional tale Little Red Riding Hood. Children will enjoy discussing the characters and making simple predictions. <u>Old Bear by Jane Hissey</u> This classic tale about forgotten toys comes to life in our second book. <u>Dogger by Shirley Hughes</u> Our final book is the much-loved story of a lost and found toy, which ties beautifully into our themes of emotions and kindness, and links to our History topic.
Reading 	The children will be taught to read in small groups, organised by phonic ability. All children in the group will read the same book. Reading Groups will be a chance for the children to use and apply their phonic skills, develop fluency, automaticity and comprehension skills. Each teaching session is made up of three parts: * Pre-read - revisit and review key sounds and words * Read - decoding * Post-read - review after reading They will read in their group three times per week. Each day has a slightly different focus: 1. Decoding 2. Prosody (intonation, rhythm, expression, volume) 3. Comprehension Reading for pleasure The children will continue to have SQUIRT (Silent/ Quiet Uninterrupted Independent Reading Time), a 20-minute reading session for each year group which takes place in our school library. The children will bring home a library book of their choice each week. This will usually be on Wednesdays. Please remember to return their library book every Wednesday, so that they can choose a new one.
Maths 	In Maths, we will be recapping on previous learning to ensure that the essential foundations have been mastered. Then we will move on to: • Counting within 100 • Part-whole relationships • Numbers 0-5 We will also be starting the NCTEM program 'Mastering Number.' This is a program designed to support our children with their mental maths in a fun and engaging way. This half term, they will be strengthening our subitising to 5 and applying our knowledge of this to help us with our numbers to 10.



	Our Key Instant Recall Facts will be based on number bonds to 5.
Science 	This half term, our science topic is Animals including Humans, with a focus on the human body and senses. In this topic we will: - Identify and label parts of the human body. - Recognise and explore the five senses of sight, sound, taste, touch and smell. As Scientists, we will also be exploring seasonal changes around us. We will investigate the changes, collect and record data, and come up with conclusions.
History 	This term in history, we will be encouraging children to ask questions about the past and make simple comparisons with their own lives. Through discussion, observation and hands-on experiences, they will begin to develop a sense of chronology and understand how life has changed over time. <u>What was it like here?</u> We begin by helping children explore their local area, thinking about how places and daily life might have looked in the past compared to now. Children will use simple historical sources such as photographs and maps to make comparisons and observations about how things have changed over time. <u>What were toys like in the past?</u> This exciting topic allows children to compare the toys they play with today to those children used in the past. They will explore a range of old and new toys, ask questions and handle objects where possible. Through activities and discussion, children will begin to understand the concepts of "past" and "present" and think about how materials, design, and technology have changed the way we play.
Computing 	In Computing, we'll start with 'Technology Around Us'. In this unit 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. We will also be considering how to use technology responsibly and safely.
PE 	Year 1's PE lessons will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kits on these days. In PE, we will be revising, developing and mastering the fundamental skills of: balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. The children will explore these skills in isolation and in combination.



Music 	In this Music topic 'My Favourite Things', children explore how to keep the beat, or "pulse" through music and movement, connecting the learning to things they love. • Clap the rhythm of their name in time to the pulse • Sway or tap along to the beat • Sing a rhythm aligned with the pulse • Copy rhythmic patterns using instruments • Keep the pulse while playing rhythms on instruments • Follow instructions during a musical performance
PSHE 	In PSHE, our theme is "Being Me in My World". We'll be discussing what makes us unique and how amazing it is to just be yourself. We will also cover: • What makes us feel safe. • Our amazing class. • Our rights and responsibilities. • Rewards and feeling proud Having successfully attained the Silver Award of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, we are now working towards the Gold level.
Art & Design 	This half term, in Art and Design we will dive into "Colour Splash," focusing on exploring colour mixing through paint play. The children will experiment with various painting tools and techniques, applying their paint to different surfaces to discover new textures and effects. They will be inspired by the vibrant, geometric patterns of Clarice Cliff and the bold, abstract works of Jasper Johns. Through this exploration, students will create their own paintings, experimenting with colour combinations and different mediums to develop their artistic skills and personal style.
Key events for the half term	<u>Dates this half term:</u> • Friday 18th September - MP David Williams visit • Friday 25th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning • Tuesday 6th - October school photographs • Thursday 15th October - Scholastic book fair in school • Friday 16th October - Year 1 Coffee Morning • Monday 19th October 2026 - Parents evening • Tuesday 20th October 2026 - Parents evening • Thursday 22nd October - INSET day • Friday 23rd October - INSET day <u>Future dates to be aware of:</u> • Monday 23rd November: SHINE afternoon - British Values workshop • Tuesday 8th June: Year 1 Inspire afternoon

Home Reading
&
Homework**Update to the Homework Policy from September 2026**
(Please see the letter sent by Mrs Pierpoint in July)**Homework/Home practise priorities:****Reading**

Children should be listened to reading at least **four times per week** in order to develop their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Please note this in/sign your child's Reading Diary.

Reading books are sent home each evening. Please send them into school every day, along with their diary, so that home reading can be tracked, and any additional reading needed in school can be completed.

Reading books will be changed following three reads in school. This will normally be on Thursdays.

Thank you for supporting your child with developing their reading and becoming fluent readers.

Parents reading to children

Reading and sharing stories and rhymes to your child helps them to develop a love for reading. Please read to, and share stories, information books, poems and rhymes with your child as often as possible, talking about the characters and what happens in the story. The children will continue to choose their own book to share for pleasure from the school library. This will usually be **on a Wednesday**.

Please return school library books every Wednesday, so that your child can choose a new book.

Phonics

'Learning Leaflets' will continue to be sent home when the children have completed each set (of 4) new/revised sounds. These should be used to help the children practise recognising and sounding individual sounds, and to help them practice blending to read and segmenting to spell words, short phrases and sentences.

Thank you for your continued support for your child at home.