

# Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2025

## Secret Garden

Dear parents and carers,

We are so excited to welcome your child back to school after Christmas and look forward to our exciting year for the rest of Year 1!

This terms topic is based around the theme 'Secret Garden', focusing on the environment around us! Children will be exploring how plants and animals have changed over time, with a focus on how to care for seeds and look after mini beasts in our area.

Year 1 will be exploring ideas such as, should everyone have a garden and a green space. How children can build habitats or support local habitats. Children will be thinking about what their own garden looks like and thinking about what plants they have in their own gardens.

As part of this topic, Year 1 will explore forest school, building some habitats for mini beasts. We will also be planting some seeds outside. Year 1 will also be growing cress in egg shells to see how plants grow over time and what they need to survive. School trip details will come out when I know more.

## General Information



**Woolden Hill**  
Primary School

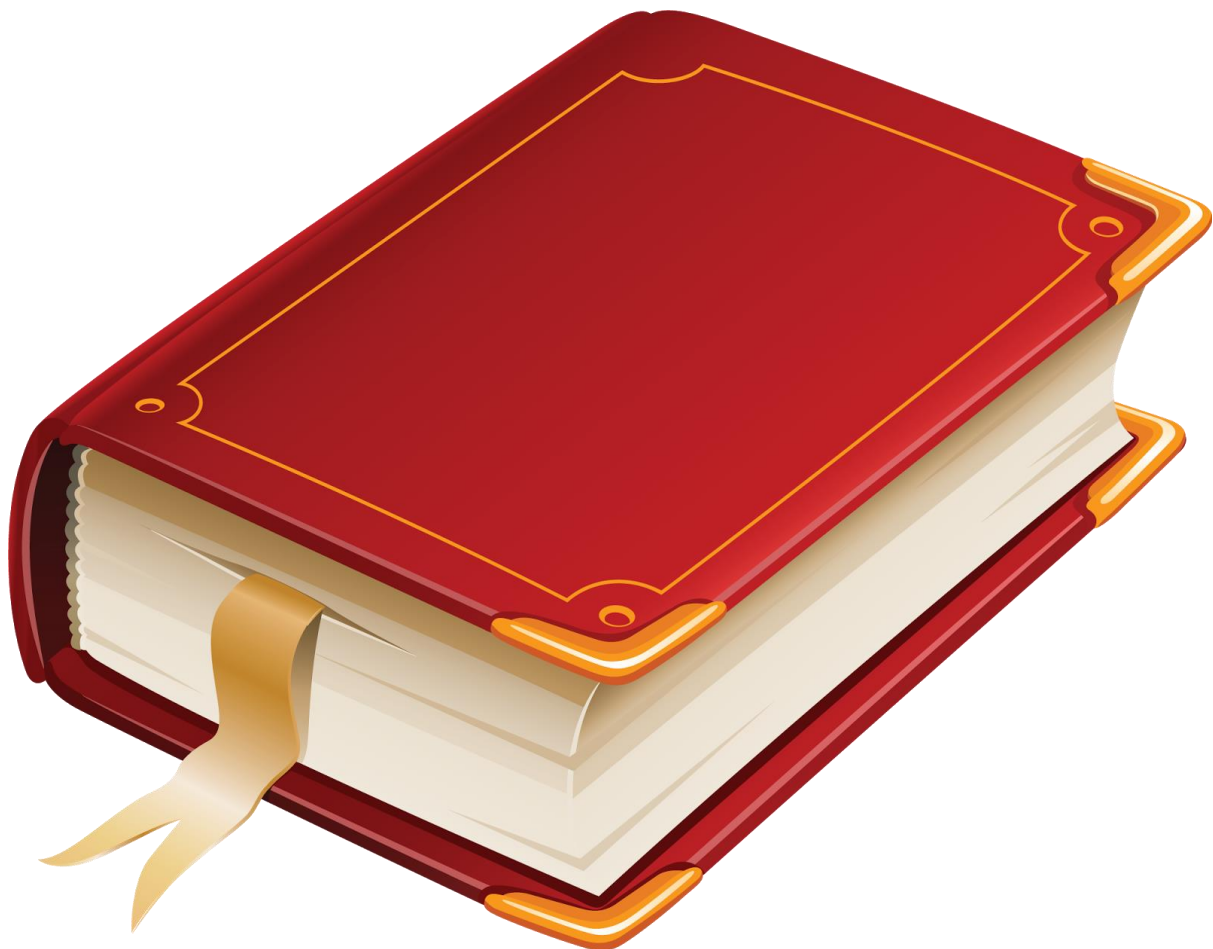
Our PE days are still Mondays and Fridays, can you please send your child to school in their PE kits on these days! Homework will be sent out on Fridays, with the expectation that it is returned for the following Friday. There will be a mini spelling quiz on the Friday as well.

At this time of the year the weather can be very changeable so please ensure your child comes to school with jumpers and coats to keep them warm, especially for break times.

Can I also remind all children to bring a water bottle into school, children will have access to their bottle throughout the day in order to keep hydrated.

Book bags should be brought into school every day. Please record any reading your child does at home in their diaries. It is important to hear your child read on a regular basis, to develop fluency and comprehensions skills . Reading a book several times really helps with the fluency. If there are particular words they get stuck on, write them down and use them to play snap or memory games etc. Children should be reading 5 times a week with dojos being given out at the end of the week.

## English and Phonics



This term for spring children will be focusing on lots of different writing types. The first text children are exploring is 'How to Grow a Unicorn' which is a set of instructions. Children will

be writing their own version of instructions for how to grow their own unicorn, which links nicely to our work on planting seeds.

The next text we will be exploring is a narrative, where children will be writing their own stories, trying to build on some key skills such as; comprehension, structure, spelling, grammar, imagination.

Children do handwriting every morning to make sure they are building on their letter formation skills and support them with this.

During English lessons children are supported on developing key knowledge such as building a sentence and using some ambitious vocabulary!

In Phonics children will continue reading their phonics books at home that they are given at school, these are still swapped every Monday. Children will continue doing phonics every day. The phonics screen will be approaching at the start of summer, so I will continue lots of phonics practice and this will be the focus for this term! Make sure you keep practicing at home and let me know any concerns or questions you have about the screen.

## Maths

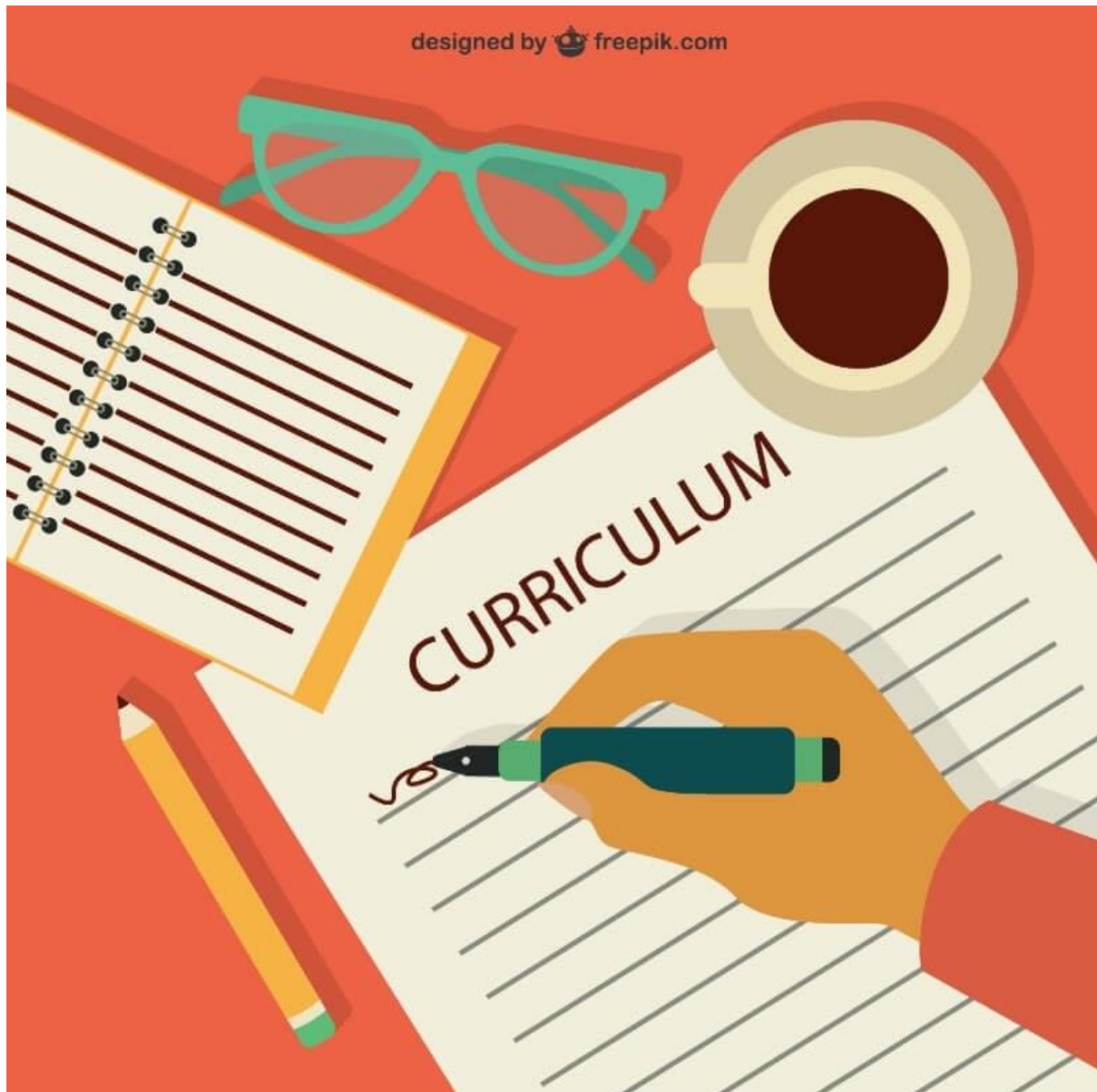


In maths children will be focusing on 2 topics in spring. The first topic is place value up to 20. In this unit children will be exploring numbers up to 20, with a focus on one more and one less than a given number. Children will be supported with concrete resources and lots of practical work, modelling and guidance.

The second unit is addition and subtraction up to 20. In this unit children will begin adding and subtracting a range of numbers up to 20. Children will practice writing the teen numbers down and how to add and subtract these numbers. For those children who can they can go above 20 in this unit as well.

If you want to practice this at home, the main things we are working on in year 1 is number formation and writing down the teen numbers and being able to recognise these.

## Curriculum



### Science

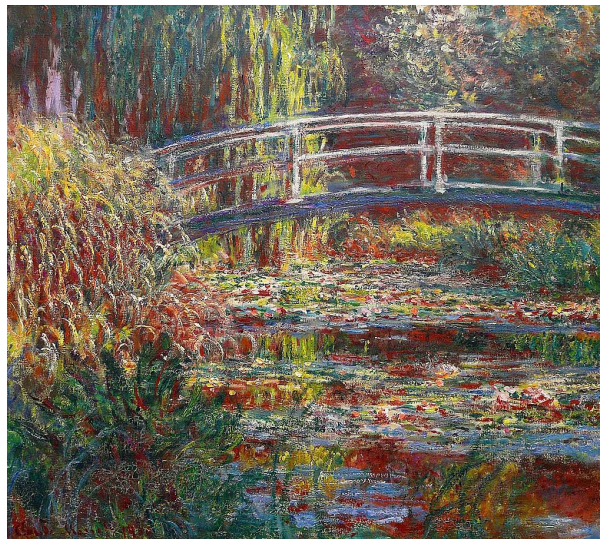
As scientists, the children will explore 2 main topics. The first topic we are exploring is plants. In this topic children will look at how plants develop over time, what plants need to survive. Children will also look at why plants are important for survival and how flowers grow. As part of this unit, children will be planting seeds both inside and outside, as well as building their own habitat in our forest school.

Children will also look at the topic animals. In this unit children will explore how animals have changed over time, what animals are now extinct. Children will explore the different types of animals, and what a mammal is. Finally, children will make a poster and carry out some research on an animal of their choice.



## **Art**

As artists, children will explore the work of Monet. Children will be looking at Monet's Secret Garden and Bridge painting. Children will attempt to draw their own version of this famous painting and research all about Monet's life!



## **Design and Technology**

In design and technology, children will be building a habitat for some mini beasts. To do this children will be collecting different materials such as sticks to create this habitat in forest school.

Children will also be building a birds nest outside using twigs and we will be trying to make a basket. Children will put this birds nest outside and we will regularly check to see if birds visit the nest.

## **Computing**

In computing the children will be practising logging on successfully, children will have a password to remember and learn not to share this with anyone. Children will also be using a computer to create text and begin to use it for research purposes.



## RE

The focus for RE in spring is 'Who is Jewish and what do Jewish people believe'. In RE we will be exploring Jewish people and some key points of the Jewish religion.



## PSHE

In PSHE children will be exploring the topic diversity and communities. In this topic children will explore how everybody is different and unique, children will think about their identity and what makes them- them!

## Music

The children will be exploring the unit rhythm and pitch. Children will explore the difference between rhythm and pitch and explain this. Children will learn how to copy a rhythm and match the pitch. Children will then perform what they learn to their classmates.

## PE

For the first half term of spring children will be practicing how to kick a ball and playing some football games. Children will learn how to dribble a ball and how to kick a ball into a goal, as well as how to defend.

For the second half term children will be practising some movement skills such as under arm throwing, chucking a ball and catching it against a wall and how to successfully play as a team.

## What can you do?

Phonics practice- oxford owl, reading, set 2 and set 3 sounds practice online. You can always ask me for phonics support or for extra sounds too in preparation for the phonics screen.

Regular reading at home is key to children's development in Year 1. Children are expected to read 5 times a week at home, recording when you have listened to children read at home will enable us to help children continue to make progress at home.

Regular opportunities to recognise, count and solve mathematical problems and practice their number formation.

Encourage children to take part in small tasks such as getting dressed, brushing their teeth, tying laces independently.

Give children support with their homework, however also encourage them to do it independently.

Working with children to help develop their recognition of our Year 1 Common exception words (red words)

Create opportunities for children to talk about the weather each day, can they describe the weather. Is the weather the same in places you may have visited?

Take time to talk to children about how they are feeling. Naming emotions and considering what parts of their body they might feel particular emotions.

Talk to children about school and Year 1, how are they feeling about their work?

Please share life events and any work at home- I love hearing about this!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you had any other concerns or queries, I look forward to an amazing spring term and lots more exciting things in year 1!