Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026
Orangutans Class

Welcome to Orangutan Class! Learning is well underway and the children are settling well into the new routines of Year 1. We're delighted to bring you a snapshot of the exciting learning that will take place over the term. From nurturing early skills, to encouraging deeper thinking and problem solving, our aim is spark curiosity and a love of learning in every member of the class. This term our overarching topic question is what makes a good monarch? Which will link to a lot of the learning which will take place.

English

In English, we will be focussing on our letter formation, and on building basic sentence structure. We will be focussing on rehearsing our sentences out loud before writing them down, ensuring clear thoughts. We will be linking our writing to hands on experiences and to our Topic lessons.

Maths

We will be following White Rose Maths, and will be consolidating place value within 10, covering addition and subtraction within 10. We will also be learning about, sorting and describing 2D and 3D shapes.

Science

In Science, we will focus on the topic of animals including humans. Children will identify and name a variety of common animals and their habitats and will identify and name those that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We will describe and compare the structure of common animals including humans, by drawing, naming, grouping and labelling.

History

We will be learning about the historical significance of The Great Fire of London. We will focus on key events and learn about the role Charles II had in rebuilding London. Children will gather information and knowledge from pictures and books, verbally explain and retell basic key knowledge and represent this using role play, pictures, storyboards, factfiles and timelines. Children will also compare Charles II with Charles III.

Geography

Children will be naming and locating the four countries of the UK using globes, atlas, maps and digital maps. We will also name and locate the capital cities in the UK and identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in each of the countries. We will also compare cities, towns and villages whilst comparing London and Bury st Edmunds.

Art

In Art, our first topic is Sprials. Within this unit, children will learn how to control the lines they make by being aware of how they hold a drawing tool, how much pressure they apply, and how fast or slow they move. Children will draw from observation and imagination whist using colour to help their drawings engage others. The second topic is Print Making. In this unit the children will make a plate from which to print. They will learn about the relationship between plate and print: e.g. negative / positive and learn that we can use print to create multiples. Children will explore line, shape, colour and texture to explore pattern, sequence, symmetry and intention.

RE

Unit 1 will focus on Judaism Believing. The children will explore why Jewish people talk about repentance at New Year. Unit 2 will focus on Christianity Believing. The children will explore why Jesus was given the name the Saviour.

DT

In DT, children will be exploring how to build strong and stable houses like those built after The Great Fire of London. They will measure carefully, and test how cross bracing makes structures stronger. Children will design, make and evaluate a 1666 style house model with a simple moving mechanism.

Music

Unit 1, Rhyming in Time, will teach the children how to move in time with the beat/pulse, responding to different tempos (speeds). Children will chant, rap and sing using different voices, following simple cues such as starting together. Unit 2, Let's Start Singing, will focus on enjoying learning to sing songs and will teach the children how to warm up their body and voice, ready to sing. Children will create and follow the melodic shape of the songs they are singing.

Computing

Our first unit introduces pupils to data and information. They will begin by using labels to put objects into groups, and will label these groups. Pupils will demonstrate that they can count a small number of objects, before and after the objects are grouped. They will then begin to demonstrate their ability to sort objects into different groups, based on the properties they choose. Finally, pupils will use their ability to sort objects into different groups to answer questions about data.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to be

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe

School Values

Our school values are

- Nurture
- Resilience
- Inspiration
- Respect

How can you support?

Following the Little Wandle phonics, your child will take part in small group reading sessions three times a week. These sessions focus on three key skills: decoding, prosody (reading with expression), and comprehension. Your child will bring their Little Wandle reading book and reading record home on a Wednesday or Thursday. Please take the time to read with your child at home and fill in their record with comments. Please ensure that both reading record and reading book are returned to school on a Monday morning. Children who read at home four times in a week will be awarded with a raffle ticket.

Important Days

Our PE days are Fridays

Our Forest School days are Thursdays.

Every Friday we have a Celebration Assembly and all parents are invited to come.

Contact

If you have any questions throughout the year contact me via the school office



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