

## French

We begin exploring French culture and learn how to greet each other in different ways, such as *bonjour*, *salut*, *bonsoir* and *bonne nuit*. We also learn how to say goodbye, along with useful vocabulary for *yes*, *no*, *please* and *thank you*. We practise saying (and singing!) "Happy Birthday" in French and build our confidence with everyday French phrases.

## Physical Education

**Throwing and Catching** - We develop our hand-eye coordination through a variety of throwing and catching activities. Children build confidence in both underarm and overarm throwing while learning effective techniques for successful catching. Working cooperatively with a partner is a key focus of this unit, helping children to develop teamwork, communication, and confidence alongside their physical skills.

**Dance** - We develop coordination, control, and expressive movement by learning and performing set motifs in our *Teddy Bear's Picnic* dance. We then showcase our creativity and individuality by adding our own unique motifs to enhance the routine.

**Fundamental footwork skills** - We develop the skills to skip, hop, jump, gallop, and run in a balanced and controlled manner.



## Maths

Our Year 1 mastery maths journey begins with a focus on developing a deep and secure understanding of key mathematical concepts through our 'Do It, Twist It, Dig Deeper' approach. This encourages children to practise new skills, apply their learning in different contexts and deepen their understanding through challenge and exploration.

Throughout each topic, children are given opportunities to make meaningful connections and apply their mathematical thinking to real-life situations, helping them to understand how maths is used in the world around them.

This term, our learning includes:

- Counting, recognising and comparing numbers to 10
- Counting forwards and backwards to 20
- Counting in tens
- Exploring number patterns from 20 to 100

In addition to our daily maths lessons, children take part in *Mastering Number* sessions. This national mathematics programme is designed to develop strong number sense and build confidence in early calculation strategies, providing firm foundations for future mathematical learning.

# Autumn Term Teddies Through Time & Space

## Music

We learn to sing traditional songs across the curriculum, developing tuneful singing and clear diction. We use percussion instruments to enhance our performances, maintaining a steady beat and rhythm. Through our weekly music lessons, we explore a range of musical genres and concepts, investigate different musical themes, and begin our journey learning to play the recorder.

## Religious Education

In RE this term, Year 1 will follow the Discerning Disciples curriculum, exploring the branches of **Creation** and **Covenant**, and of **Prophecy and Promise**. Through stories from the Bible, discussion, prayer and creative activities, the children will learn about God as Creator, the importance of caring for God's world, and the special relationship between God and his people. As we move towards Advent and Christmas, children will explore how the prophets shared messages of hope and promise and learn how Christians prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## English

**Phonics** - During our daily phonics lessons, we review, learn and apply our weekly graphemes. The children develop their ability to recognise graphemes in isolation and identify them within both familiar and unfamiliar words.

**Handwriting** - We focus on forming lowercase letters and numbers with similar patterns, encouraging accuracy and consistency. We also learn the corresponding capital letters and continue to strengthen number formation skills.

**Reading** - We participate in 2-3 group reading sessions each week, focusing on decoding skills, prosody, and reading comprehension.

In addition to phonics, reading and handwriting, pupils participate in daily English lessons designed to develop their literacy skills through a range of high-quality texts. Through immersion in rich and engaging children's literature, pupils enhance their reading, writing, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Our Autumn term texts include:

- The Sea Saw by Tim Percival
- The Comet by Joe Todd-Stanton
- Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max

## Science

**Materials and their properties** - We explore the materials used to make teddy bears in the past and compare them with those used today. Children learn to identify and describe materials as either natural or human-made, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each. They begin to sort and classify objects according to the materials from which they are made and develop their investigative skills by planning and carrying out fair tests to determine the most suitable materials for specific purposes. For example, children might investigate which material would make the best umbrella for Teddy. Throughout the topic, they use and apply scientific vocabulary to describe and compare the properties of different materials.

**Space** - We learn about natural and artificial sources of light, including the Sun. We explore our place in space, learning that Earth is part of the Solar System within the Milky Way galaxy. We discover that the universe is made up of countless stars and planets, and learn the order of the planets in our Solar System. The children then research a planet of their choice and create a fact file to share their findings.

**Seasonal Changes** - We observe seasonal changes and use scientific vocabulary to describe them. We learn about the autumn and winter months and identify signs of these seasons in the world around us. We explore how, during autumn and winter, the days become shorter and the nights become longer.

## Topic (History)

We explore the history of the teddy bear and sequence key events on a timeline. Children are introduced to the concept of living memory and sort events according to whether they occurred within or beyond this period. We also investigate famous bear characters from different eras and place them chronologically on a timeline.

**Black History Month** - As part of Black History Month, we learn about the life and artwork of Alma Thomas and explore her contributions to the art world.

**Remembrance** - For Remembrance, we study the important roles animals have played during times of war, with a particular focus on Wojtek.

**Space** - During our Space topic, we discover the different animals that have travelled into space and place these missions on a timeline. We also learn about significant astronauts from history, including Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, Tim Peake, and Mae Jemison, whose achievements are also highlighted during Black History Month.

## Art and Design & Technology

**Art** - We develop our fine motor skills through pointillist painting techniques, exploring colour mixing and creating our own teddy bear artworks inspired by the work of Alma Thomas. We also learn to manipulate clay using a variety of techniques to create a teddy bear sculpture. Throughout the project, we plan, reflect on, and evaluate our work, before applying the skills we have developed to design and make an Advent wreath in December.

**D&T** - We learn about food hygiene and safe food preparation techniques, including how to cut and handle ingredients correctly. We plan and make a healthy Harvest soup using seasonal vegetables, which we share with Year 2, who bake and bring bread to accompany the feast. We also learn how to join materials using a needle and thread, creating special keepsake Christmas decorations.