


Dear families,

thank you for taking the time to read this overview and for engaging with your child's learning this term. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the team. We really look forward to an exciting term of learning and fun!

Kind regards,
The Year 1 Team

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p>This half term, your child will study the story 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett. They will share their opinions on the text and develop their use of explaining why they like or dislike the text using specific examples. They will begin to embellish the story as they write their own 'postcards' from Sunny the Meerkat to his family. Each day they will practise writing complex sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. They will also consolidate their prior learning of similes, adjectives, conjunctions (e.g. but, so) and appropriate punctuation in order to create exciting extended sentences.</p> <p>Excitingly, we will also be studying poetry this half term and using confident voices and expression to perform a poem successfully.</p> <p>To support your child, you could discuss the books that you read together and ask your child to give their opinion using the word 'because'. Exploring a wide range of texts including poetry will also really help your child to thrive.</p>
Writing	<p>Nelson Handwriting</p> <p>As we continue our journey to outstanding handwriting, we will be focussing heavily on ascenders (letters that are tall) and descenders (letters that go below the line). As ever your child is practising with a 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and 'Posture for Writing'. As we move towards the end of the year we will be inviting children who are ready to join all of their letters.</p>  <p>You can support your child's handwriting by ensuring they are using a sharp pencil and sitting at a table when completing homework or independent writing.</p>
Reading	<p>Sounds-Write (Phonics)</p> <p>Your child will continue to practise their skills of segmenting, blending and phoneme manipulation. All children are working hard to read words of one, two and three syllables.</p> <p>Guided Reading</p> <p>This half term your child will continue to read with a teacher as part of a small group. We will focus on decoding words and strengthening their comprehension as we begin to look at inference questions, e.g. What is this character feeling and thinking? How do you know?</p> <p>It is vital that you are reading with your child every day to support their skills of sounding and blending. You could support their understanding of what they are reading by asking questions about what you have read and asking to make inferences.</p>

<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>This term, we will be learning how to multiply numbers. We will start to group objects equally and use multiplication language such as 2 groups of 3 or 5 groups of 4. They will also multiply by creating arrays and doubling numbers, relating this to the 2 times table.</p> <p>Once we have a solid understanding of multiplication, we will begin to explore division. Building on their prior knowledge from early years, we will discuss how we divide numbers into equal groups and how it relates to multiplication.</p> <p>Towards the end of the half term, if the children are confident in the above we will move onto learning about fractions, focusing on halves and quarters.</p>
	<p>You could support your child by grouping objects equally at home and helping them to be immersed in multiplication language, for example, five groups of four sweets. You could support with division by sharing objects out into equal groups. For example, dividing 9 coins into 3 equal groups.</p>
<p>Core Knowledge</p>	<p>In Science this half term the children will be learning about plants. They will carry out an investigation which centers on observing over time. The children will explore what a plant needs to grow by depriving their seeds of water or light. The children will also learn the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees as they classify and discuss them.</p> <p>In Geography your child will be learning about the Continents and Oceans. They will begin by singing songs about oceans and continents. Next, they will revise the equator line and begin to explore how this impacts the climate, for example, Antarctica is the coldest continent because it is the furthest away from the equator. They will also explore specific countries and cultures within those continents.</p>
	<p>You could support by talking about the different countries within that continent. For example, we live in the United Kingdom, which is a part of Europe.</p>
<p>Character & PSHE</p>	<p>This half term, we will be learning about the virtues curiosity, creativity and service. Showing service is when you help others and do not expect anything in return. We will be putting this skill into practise around school and thinking about when and where we can show the value of service.</p> <p>This half term, our PSHE learning will be focusing on 'Relationships' including our families, making friends, relationships with ourselves and people in our community.</p>
	<p>You can support your child's learning by recognising the services that help your family e.g. doctors, dentists, dust bin collectors.</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>Excitingly, this half term our Art will be condensed into an incredible 'Design Week', Year 1 children will learn the process and progress required in researching, planning and fulfilling their initial plan. There will be opportunities for your child to engage with various forms of technology during choosing times, such as iPad apps. and listening posts.</p>
	<p>You could support your child by encouraging them to discuss their artwork, giving their opinions on what they like and what they might change to make it even better.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Your child sings in groups with their class every day for enjoyment and to reinforce their learning. We will be learning about instrument families such as string, brass, percussion, woodwind as well as exploring beat, rhythm, tempo and dynamics.</p>
	<p>You could support by singing songs together or by making homemade instruments.</p>
<p>P.E</p>	<p>Years 1 will be focusing on Athletics during PE in preparation for their Sports Day! These events are Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin, Discus, Running Races and an Obstacle Course. Alongside this, the children will take part in a variety of fun, inclusive games.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child eats a healthy, balanced diet and arrives at school having eaten a nutritious breakfast. Details of our breakfast club are available from the School Office.</p>