6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 1 Class Curriculum Newsletter

The children have settled into Year 1 brilliantly and have shown great enthusiasm for their Rainbow Learning challenges during provision time. We are extremely proud of how well they have adapted to new routines and expectations, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and independence continue to grow. We will continue to work in small groups to support learning in key areas such as English, Maths and Reading.

English
This term, the children will be learning about the features of different text types and developing their own writing skills through a range of exciting units. They will learn how to write clear instructions, create stories with familiar settings and explore poetry by experimenting with rhythm, rhyme and language choices.

Phonics
The children will continue their phonics journey through the Little Wandle programme by learning Phase 5 phonemes. Many of these are alternative spellings for sounds they already know, helping them become more confident readers and writers. We will continue to practise applying phonics skills in both reading and spelling activities.

Maths
In Maths, we will be using our knowledge of numbers to explore addition and subtraction within 10. The children will learn number bonds to 10 and develop strategies to solve simple calculations. Any support you can provide at home with learning these key number facts would be greatly appreciated. Towards the end of the term, we will begin learning about common 2D and 3D shapes, exploring their properties and using shapes to create patterns.

Science
This term, we will be learning about plants, including trees. The children will identify and name the different parts of plants, learn about wild and garden flowers and investigate where they grow. They will also explore the different parts of a tree and identify the types of trees found around our school environment.

Geography
The children will develop their mapping skills by exploring aerial photographs and identifying familiar features. They will create simple maps and learn how maps can be used to represent places and locations.

RE
Our RE learning will focus on Christianity and the question: Why do people give presents at Christmas? The children will explore how the tradition of gift-giving is linked to the Nativity story and why giving presents is important to many Christians at Christmas time.

DT

In Design and Technology, the children will design and make a matching slider game. They will explore a variety of mechanisms and learn how sliding mechanisms create movement. The children will describe movements using terms such as up and down, left and right, and forwards and backwards before applying their understanding to their own product.

PSHE
This term we will be exploring the topic Celebrating Difference. Children will learn about similarities and differences between people, celebrate what makes each person unique and develop their understanding of kindness, respect and inclusion.

PE
This term, our PE units are Sending and Receiving (outdoor PE) and Gymnastics (indoor PE). Through these units, children will continue to develop their coordination, balance, agility and teamwork skills, as well as their confidence when moving and working safely with others.
Indoor PE will continue to take place on Mondays, with outdoor PE on Tuesdays. Please ensure children come to school with appropriate PE kit and suitable trainers. Long hair should be tied back.

Reading and Homework
Reading regularly at home makes a huge difference to children's progress. Please read with your child at least three times each week and record these reads in their reading record.
Our library visits continue on Wednesdays, so please ensure library books are returned in the plastic reading folder provided.
Homework will be handed out on Fridays and should be returned to school by the following Wednesday.

Attendance and Punctuality
It is essential that children arrive on time each morning. Learning begins with a Start Task at 8:45 a.m., followed by guided reading at 9:05 a.m. Arriving promptly helps children settle quickly and ensures no valuable learning time is missed.

Bags and Cloakroom Space
We kindly ask that children bring only one book bag to school each day. This should contain their reading book, homework and water bottle. Our cloakroom area is limited in size, so larger bags and backpacks can be difficult to store safely.

Getting in Touch
If you wish to speak to the class teacher, you are welcome to do so briefly at the classroom door in the morning. For longer discussions, please arrange an appointment with the teacher or contact the school office in person or by email at admin@westleaschool.org.uk.

We are looking forward to another exciting and productive term with the children and thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards

The Year 1 Team