



YEAR 1 Curriculum Blog

Spring 1 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

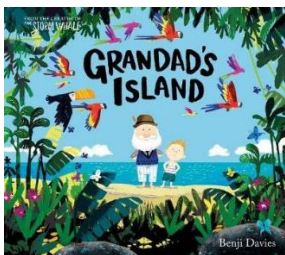
Happy New Year to everyone! Welcome back to our spring term. Once again, through this curriculum blog, we hope to keep you informed and engaged with your child's learning journey. With your continued help and support, we hope to continue to develop enthusiastic and curious learners.

Our topic title for this half term is 'Around the World'. Below you will find details of all the areas your child will be focusing on, along with some ways you can support your child with their learning. We look forward to continue working with you this year to support your child to achieve their full potential.

Should you have any questions or need any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us via Class Dojo.

Kind regards,
Mrs Smith, Miss Orchard and Mrs Ahmet

English



Our first text this half term will be 'Grandad's Island', which deals with the emotional topic of losing a grandparent. Subtly told, this beautifully illustrated book tackles a difficult subject with great sensitivity and depth. This story is a beautiful reminder that our loved ones live on in our memories long after they're gone. Our second text type is focusing on travel journals. We will be looking at the key features of this non-fiction type and will practise applying these in our own work.


Using these texts as their stimuli, the children will focus on structuring clear sentences, ensuring they rehearse their ideas orally first before writing. They will work on remembering to use capital letters, finger gaps and full stops and will continue to develop the vocabulary they include in their sentences using the 'Write Stuff' lenses. At the end of each writing unit the children will have the chance to produce an independent piece of writing applying all that they have learned.


Mathematics



Our first maths focus will be on the place value of numbers to 20. The children will explore different ways to represent each number and will learn to recognise the numbers to 20 as words. They will also practise counting on and back from any given number up to 20, understanding that they do not always have to start at 0. In addition, they will focus on finding one more and one less than a given number. As part of this unit the children will learn the words and symbols that will allow them to compare numbers and explain how they have ordered them. The children will also continue working with the number line, positioning numbers based on their relation to others. The children will then move onto their addition and subtraction within 20 unit. They will apply their place value knowledge to support their work in this. They will continue to look at the part whole model and write simple addition and subtraction number sentences recognising that +, - and = are important symbols to use. Within maths sessions, they will learn to use a variety of resources to support their addition and subtraction work including number lines, counters, Numicon, and pictorial representations.

Please log in to Numbots to further support maths learning. Contact your class teacher via Class Dojo if you need any help with this.

<p>RWI</p>  	<p>The children will continue their RWI journey using the systematic approach they began in Early Years. Every day, they will focus on consolidating their existing phonic knowledge as well as learning new sounds. They will read phonically decodable texts at an appropriate level and will work on developing their speed and accuracy when reading.</p> <p>To further support your child at home, please access the fantastic books on our school website as well as on the Oxford Owl website and encourage your child to read the school texts sent home at least three times in the week. Remember to encourage your child to read daily and please log all their reading on BOOM READER, including any texts from home or the library you may share.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In our science topic this half term, the children will be learning about plants. Firstly, they will consider what makes something a plant. They will then start to identify examples of common garden and wild plants as well as a range of trees, recognising the difference between evergreen and deciduous. They will be encouraged to use scientific vocabulary to describe the trees and plants they see and will consider similarities and differences, sorting based on this knowledge.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>During our 'Programming animation' unit, the children will develop their knowledge of early programming concepts using Scratch Jr. They will explore the way a project looks by investigating sprites and backgrounds and will use programming blocks to use, modify, and create programs. The children will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The focus of our geography unit is 'The UK'. During this unit, the children will be learning the names of the 4 countries that make up the United Kingdom and will also learn the names of the capital cities of each. They will also discover the names of the bodies of water around the United Kingdom. The children will consider what human and physical features are, and will look for examples within our school grounds. They will then broaden their understanding by identifying examples of each focusing on London.</p>
<p>DT</p> 	<p>Our DT focus is on food. The children will look at where food comes from and how it can be farmed, grown elsewhere and caught. They will explore existing products, tasting different examples of fruits and vegetables before choosing the ones they like best and designing their own fruit salad. They will experience using different tools to help prepare food and will learn to chop and grate safely. Once completed, they will taste what they have created and evaluate their work considering what went well and what they might do differently next time.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>In our music lessons this half term, pupils will learn 'In the Groove!' by Joanna Mangona which is especially written to teach children about different styles of music. This is a very easy song to learn and has been arranged in six different styles; Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk.</p> <p>They will learn to listen and appraise other styles of music and continue to embed the interrelated dimensions of music through games and singing.</p>
<p>PSHE/RSE</p> 	<p>We will be continuing to use the 'No Outsiders' scheme alongside our existing PHSE/RSE curriculum. Using a picture book to spark conversations and questions, children will continue to explore diversity and community cohesion.</p> <p>The focus of our PSHE/RSE scheme this half term is belonging to a community and money and work. The children will focus on what rules are and their importance within different aspects of their own life. They will also consider how they can look after the environment, focusing in particular on reduce, reuse and recycle. They will also consider how to care for people, animals and other living things and will explore people whose job it is to take care of these things.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>Our RE focus is 'What does it mean to belong to a faith community?' looking at Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The children will consider what the term belonging means and will look at how people from each of our focus religions show that they belong. They will also compare how Muslims and Christians welcome a baby into their faith, and how Jewish and Christian weddings are similar and different.</p>

	The children will have opportunities to share their learning through drawing, writing and role play.
<p>PE</p> 	<p>PE for Year 1 will continue to be on Thursday each week. We ask all children to wear the LTPS PE kit, which is a plain white T shirt and navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms with black trainers. All jewellery must be removed. Hair must be tied back. NO football kits of any description please.</p> <p>Our topics in PE this half term are hockey, basketball, dance and gymnastics. The children will have the opportunity to continue to improve their hand eye coordination, balance and spatial awareness as well as developing their upper body strength and flexibility through their work in gymnastics. Through their work in hockey and basketball, they will develop their teamwork skills, coordination and strategic thinking. They will learn how to control a ball while moving (dribbling), use hand-eye coordination to hit objects with a stick (hitting) and accurately pass a ball (throwing, bouncing or catching).</p>

Ideas to support your child's learning at home linked to our areas of learning this term:


- ✓ Read daily and log this on Boom Reader.
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>
- ✓ Visit the library and see what different books you can find? Are there any books by your favourite author? Are there books about plants you could borrow? Remember to log them on Boom Reader!
- ✓ Practise weekly spellings. Once you know them, put your spelling word into a sentence and write it remembering to start your sentence with a capital letter, use finger gaps between your words and end your sentence with a full stop. These are tested in RWI sessions each week.
- ✓ Regularly practise number facts on Numbots.
- ✓ Go for a walk in your local area and identify the different plants that are growing. What do their leaves look like? Are they smooth or jagged? Are there any flowers? What colour are they?
- ✓ Look closely at flowers and draw their petals and leaves. Can you notice any other parts? Label the flowers you have drawn.
- ✓ Go for a walk in the woods with some paper and a crayon. Take some bark rubbings. Do the rubbings from different trees look the same or different?
- ✓ Challenge yourself to eat a new fruit or vegetable each week. You never know you might find a new favourite!
- ✓ Under close supervision practise using a grater or a knife to cut and prepare different fruit and vegetables.
- ✓ Practise ball skills at home throwing, bouncing or catching a ball in the back garden or on the field.

Homework Project – Children are asked to choose one of the projects below to complete.

Please complete and return Homework projects by **Friday 9th February**. Homework projects will be celebrated and shared in class **from Monday 12th February**.

1. Keep a plant diary! Plant a seed and watch it grow. Observe the changes that happen over the days and weeks through photos or by writing simple sentences. When sharing with the class, remember to include information about how you looked after the seed and helped it to stay alive.

2. Write a fact file about a country of the UK: Choose a country and find out about the national flower, typical food and flag of that country as well as any landmarks famous in that country. You can choose to present your findings using pictures, drawings, or make a short oral presentation to the class at the end of this half term.

 **3. Learn the British National Anthem:** Learn the first verse of the British National Anthem and sing it to the class. If your home country is not Britain, and you would like to learn their national anthem you can perform this to the class instead; you could even play an instrument as well.

4. Create a new flowering plant of your own: Using a variety of materials of your choice – paper, fabric, card, wool, pipe cleaners etc. – create a new flower. Label the key parts – stem, flower, roots and leaves.



5. Designs your own special place: What would be your special place – your “Grandad’s Island”? Make a 3D model using card, tissue, pipe cleaners etc. Be prepared to explain where it is and why that place is special to you.

