

# From Slate to screen

## Curriculum Newsletter

2025-26

KS1



This term our topic is 'From slate to screen'. What do you know about schools a long time ago? In this project your child will have the opportunity to take part in a traditional Victorian class and will compare schooling, toys and games from the past to now. They will learn about significant people from the past; Samuel Wilderspin, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale and Dr Barnardo.

### Our key questions are:

- What was our school like a long time ago and how is it different today?
- How was school different in the Victorian era compared to school's today?
- What was it like to live as a child in the Victorian era?
- How has our school changed over time?
- How have toys and games changed over time?

### Read, Write, Inc (RWI) phonics



Reception children will learn to read by learning to recognise and say their 'Set 1' letter sounds. They will develop their decoding skills to segment and blend these sounds in corresponding words. Year 1 children will revisit their Set 2 sounds and will then learn their Set 3 sounds, reading a wider range of words containing these sounds. They will also practice reading nonsense words.

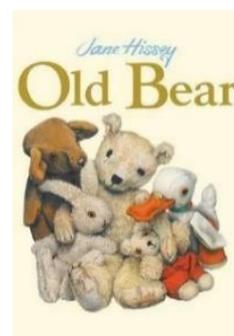


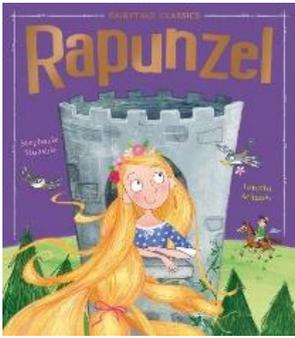
We will develop our fluency and comprehension skills through our RWI group reading lessons. We will answer questions based on evidence from the text and we will make inferences on the basis of what has happened so far.

### Literacy, communication and language

As a class, we will enjoy reading and rehearsing a range of stories, rhymes, poems and we will sing nursery songs. Children will participate in high-quality discussions with the class teacher during story times. We will discuss a range of stories, poems and non-fiction texts considering the characters, setting and sequence of events.

Reception will learn to write their name and they will begin to form recognisable letters. They will use their segmenting and blending to write phonetically decodable words learnt in their phonics lessons. They will say out loud what they want to write about and have a go at using their sounds to write phonetically plausible attempts at words.





In Autumn 1, the Year 1 children will enjoy learning through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry genres. This term we are focusing on the story 'Old Bear' by Jane Hissey. We will write a list poem, re-tell the story and write a letter.

In Autumn 2, we will be focusing on the text 'Rapunzel' and we will write a traditional tale and instructions on how to catch a witch. When writing our sentences, we will use our capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will continue our learning on combining words to make sentences and using joining words and clauses with 'and'. We will explore adding -s and -es to words and adding -er to verbs.

## Maths

At UMBERLEIGH children focus on the maths mastery approach. This means that children are challenged to 'dive deeper' with their learning to further explain, reason and justify their answers. It's important for your child to get to grips with maths in a very practical, hands-on way. Working individually, as a class and in groups, they will be investigating, counting, playing number games and using everyday objects to help them solve problems and do simple calculations. As they start to become more familiar with the language used in maths, they will be encouraged to talk about their methods for solving problems and presenting their results. Children will be given opportunities to deepen their learning by using their logic and reasoning skills in a range of real-life contexts and problems.



This half term we will be focusing on;

<p><b>Reception</b>  Match, sort and compare  Talk about measure and patterns  Counting 1, 2, 3  Circles and triangles  Counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5  Shapes with 4 sides</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b>  Number; Number and place value within 10  Number; Addition and subtraction within 10  Geometry; Shape.</p>
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## Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE)



**Autumn 1:** Being me in my world.

**Reception** - In this Puzzle piece, children will learn about their feelings and emotions, being at school, how to be gentle and kind and our rights and responsibilities.

**Year 1**- Year 1 children will think about how they are special and how we keep safe. They will consider how they belong in their class and their rights and responsibilities. We will discuss how we will feel rewarded when we try hard and how we may feel proud of ourselves. We will think about the consequences of our actions and owning the principles of our jigsaw learning charter.

**Autumn 2:** Celebrating difference

**Reception** - In this Puzzle, children are encouraged to think about things that they are good at whilst understanding that everyone is good at different things. They discuss being different and how that makes everyone special but also recognise that we are the same in some ways. The children share their experiences of their homes and are asked to explain why it is special to them. They learn about friendship and how to be a kind friend and how to stand up for themselves if someone says or does something unkind to them.

**Year 1**- Year 1 children explore the similarities and differences between people and how these make us unique and special. The children learn what bullying is and what it isn't. They talk about how it might feel to be bullied and when and who to ask for help. The children discuss friendship, how to make friends and that it is OK to have differences/be different from their friends. The children also discuss being nice to, and looking after, other children who might be being bullied.

## Art

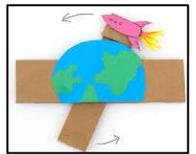
In Autumn 1, the children will be exploring the work of William Morris, a famous British artist and designer known for his beautiful repeating patterns and nature-inspired prints. Children will learn about how he used printing techniques to create decorative wallpapers and textiles. They will look closely at his use of flowers, leaves, and animals in his designs, and use this as inspiration to create their own repeating patterns. Children will also have the opportunity to experiment with block printing, learning how to transfer their own designs onto paper through making their own printing blocks.



In Autumn 2, we will then move onto drawing and painting, looking at Victorian toys. We will experiment with primary and secondary colours. We will learn about the artist William Nicholson who created simple, bold still-life paintings and illustrations, many of which feature toys, household objects, and scenes from everyday life. He also illustrated children's books, including *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

## Design and Technology

Children will create their own moving picture, using sliders and leavers. Children will also construct, make and create in the junk modelling area.



## Religious Education (RE)



Our RE this term is who do Christians believe created the world? Children will explore the creation story.

## Computing

In Autumn Term 1, we will be completing the unit; Moving a robot. This unit introduces learners to early programming concepts. Learners will explore using individual commands, both with other learners and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each floor robot command does and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. The unit is paced to ensure time is spent on all aspects of programming and builds knowledge in a structured manner. Learners are also introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.

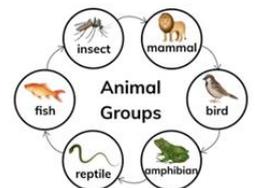


In Autumn 2, we will be learning about 'Technology around us' where we will develop our understanding of technology in our environment and how it can help us. Children will become more familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills, and also start to consider how to use technology responsibly.

## Science

### Autumn 1:

This half-term, our Science topic is *Animals and Their Needs for Survival*. The children will be finding out about the basic needs that animals, including humans, require to stay alive, such as food, water and air. They will also learn how animals can be grouped (for example, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish) and explore how diet and teeth are linked. To bring their learning to life, the children will enjoy a special visit from a vet and an exciting session with Exmoor Zoo who will bring in several reptiles. They will be encouraged to make observations, record their findings, and use scientific vocabulary to explain their ideas.

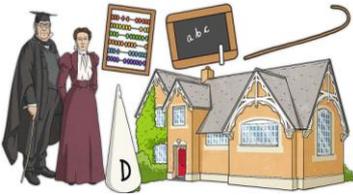


## Autumn 2:



In the second half of the term, our focus will be on *Materials*. Children will learn to identify and compare a range of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick and paper. They will investigate the properties of these materials, thinking about why they are chosen for particular purposes. Through hands-on activities and simple investigations, children will begin to suggest which materials are most suitable for different uses and explain their reasoning.

## History



This term our History topic is *From Slate to Screen*, where we'll be stepping back into the world of the Victorians. The children will be introduced to Queen Victoria and discover what life was like for Victorian boys and girls at school and at play. We'll explore toys, transport, and "meet" some important people from the past such as Florence Nightingale, Dr Barnardo and Samuel Wilderspin, who helped shape childhood as we know it. The children will investigate the history of our own school in Umberleigh and how it has changed over time. Through fun activities, role play, and questioning, the children will develop their historical vocabulary and begin to compare their own lives with those of children long ago.

## Physical Education (PE)

In PE this term, children will be building their fundamental ball skills through fun and engaging activities. They'll learn how to roll, bounce, catch, throw and dribble a variety of balls, developing their hand-eye coordination, balance and spatial awareness. Sessions are playful and active, using simple games such as *beanbag toss*, *rolling races*, *target throws* and *dribble-and-stop challenges*. These activities encourage teamwork, turn-taking and confidence. These core skills form the building blocks for future sports and help children develop a love of being active while learning to move safely and with control.



We will also learn the game of dodgeball and develop our skills of dodging, throwing and catching with increasing control and accuracy, while also developing spatial awareness and teamwork. The focus will be on playing safely, following rules, and working cooperatively with others in a team setting.

*PE is on a Wednesday and a Thursday but children should keep their PE kits in school all week.*

## French



Children will learn through songs and practical speaking activities. This term they will be learning about the topics; colours, yes/no responses, pets, clothes and sizes.

## Music



This term in KS1, children will be exploring rhythm and rhyme. They will learn the basics of musical notation and compose their own rhythms.

## Big events

Our school trips to enhance our learning will be to Tiverton museum and Rosemoor Gardens, as well as a Victorian classroom experience.

Many thanks for your continued support,  
Mrs Westwood and Mrs Brayley

### How can you help at home?

- Encourage your child to be independent in eating, getting dressed, looking after their belongings and going to the toilet independently.
- Listen to your child read their reading books daily and ask them questions about what they are reading to develop their comprehension skills. Share stories at bedtime as well as their daily reading practice to encourage reading for pleasure.
- Practice reading their phonics sounds and alien/nonsense words in their blue folder.
- There are some home learning activities in their home-school book if they would like to complete any for their current topic or you can decide on your own home learning activities. These are optional but will be celebrated in class.
- Help your child to learn key maths skills through every day, practical activities. There are some great online games and sites they can play on too, including our doodle learning site.
- Encourage your child to practise writing their letters and spelling their phonics words using their pencil in the tripod grip.
- Access our online learning platforms - Teach your monster to read, doodle and times table rock stars.
- Help your child to learn key maths skills through every day, practical activities.
- Ask your children questions about their current topic and discuss their learning with them.