

Secrets of the shore

Summer Term

2025-26

Reception and Year 1



Our topic big events

Our engage events will include a trip to the beach to learn about creatures that live in rock pools, physical features and how to look after our coastline. For our celebration event, we will enjoy a pirate day!

Reading and Phonics



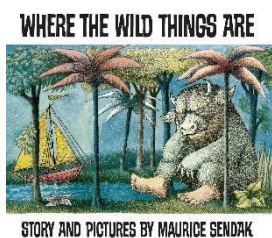
Reception children will now be confident on their Set 1 sounds and will be learning their Set 2 sounds, reading corresponding words containing those sounds as well as some nonsense/alien words. Year 1 children should now know their Set 2 and are consolidating their Set 3 sounds. They will have a greater focus on reading multisyllabic words and will read nonsense/alien words. Children will participate in

whole class reading daily, through RWI lessons. We will develop our reading comprehension skills through participating in high-quality discussion with the teacher during RWI sessions and class story times, discussing a range of stories, poems and non-fiction texts. They will learn to answer questions based on evidence from the text and make inferences on the basis of what is being said and done.

We have two class story sessions each day. We share our focus texts, topic books and stories we know and love.

Literacy

This term, Year 1 are focusing on the stories; *The Secret of Black Rock* and 'Where the wild things are'. The children are building their confidence as young writers by learning how to write clear and accurate sentences. They will orally plan what they want to say and use



fingers to spell each word in the sentence, including some tricky red words (words we cannot sound out and need to learn off by heart).

They are practising using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, as well as adding suffixes such as -er, -ed, -ing and -est to extend their vocabulary. The children are also exploring how the prefix un- changes a word's meaning, using exclamation marks to show strong feelings, and joining ideas with "and" to make their sentences longer and more detailed. As these skills develop, the children will be

planning and writing their own stories, using everything they have learned to bring their ideas to life.



Focus texts

Here are our focus texts each week:

Commotion in the ocean by Giles Andreae
Under the sea by Anna Milbourne
Explore the beach by First Nature Guide
Katie Morag island stories by Katie Hedderwick
At the beach by National Geographic
The lighthouse keeper stories by Ronda and Davis Armitage
Brilliant Boats by Tony Mitton & Ant Parker
Shells and what they hide inside by Helen Scales
Sally and the Limpet by Simon James
Dougal's Deep Sea Diary by Simon Bartram
The snail and the whale, Sharing a shell, What the ladybird heard at the seaside, Tiddler by Julia Donaldson
Rainbow fish by Marcus Pfister
Kindness glows by A.K Smith
Bright Stanley by Matt Buckingham
Puffin peter by Petr Horacek
The search for the giant arctic jelly fish by Chloe Savage
A house for a hermit crab and Mr Seahorse by Eric Carle
The big blue whale by Nicola Davies
Somebody swallowed Stanly by Sarah Roberts
The whale who ate plastic by Stephanie O'Connor
Maya and the tiny troublemaker
Little turtle and the sea by Becky Davies
The seal on the beach by Mara Bergman
Ocean gardener by Clara Anganuzzi
Turtle rescue by Jonny Marx
The pirates next door by Jonny Duddle
The two stubborn pirates by Oakly Graham

Maths

The Year 1 children will be developing their understanding of place value to 100, practising addition and subtraction using practical resources and number facts, and exploring time, including reading o'clock and half-past. They will also be learning about money, recognising coins and notes, and beginning simple calculations using them. As the term progresses, the children will investigate position and direction, use measurement to compare length, height, weight and volume, and apply their learning through problem-solving activities. These units help strengthen number sense and encourage children to explain their thinking clearly and confidently.



Reception children will be deepening their understanding of numbers to 10 and beyond, exploring how amounts can be composed and decomposed in different ways. The children will also be comparing quantities, talking about patterns, and developing early calculation skills through practical activities and play. Alongside this, they will be learning about shape, space and measures, including comparing length, height, weight and capacity using everyday objects. Through hands-on exploration, problem-solving and lots of mathematical talk, the children will grow in confidence as they begin to use mathematical language and ideas in their independent learning.

Science



In Summer 1, we will continue to learn about plants, building on the children's curiosity about the natural world. We will explore different types of plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees, sort and identify a variety of seeds, learn about which parts of plants we can eat, understand the plant life cycle, and investigate how light affects plant growth. The children will have opportunities to carry out simple observations over time and develop their scientific enquiry skills by asking questions and recording what they notice.

In Summer 2, we will then move on to studying habitats, where children will identify the characteristics of living things, learn about a range of habitats, and explore the plants and animals that live within them, including woodland, rainforest, and ocean environments. The children will also be introduced to simple food chains, helping them to understand how living things depend on one another. Throughout this unit, we will encourage children to compare different habitats, think about how animals are suited to their environments, and consider how we can help to look after the world around us.



Computing

In Summer 1, children will be introduced to the idea of data and information. They will start by using labels to group objects and name those groups. The children will practise counting small sets of objects, both before and after they have been grouped. As the unit progresses, they will learn to sort objects into different groups based on properties they choose themselves. Finally, they will use their sorting skills to answer simple questions about the data they have created.



In summer 2, children will be developing their understanding of how we use a computer to create and edit text. They will become more confident typing on a keyboard and will begin exploring tools that allow them to change the appearance of their writing. The children will also think about how writing on a computer is different from writing on paper, and what the advantages of each might be.

Geography



We will be exploring our exciting topic "Secrets of the Shore," where children will learn all about the coast and seaside environments. We will begin by locating the world's seven continents and five oceans and understanding that the coast is where land meets the sea. The children will then explore key physical features of the coast such as beaches, cliffs and rocks, and learn how coastlines can change over time through processes like erosion. Children will investigate coastal habitats, identifying plants and animals that live there, and learn about significant individuals including Mary Anning and Grace Darling. They will compare seaside locations with towns, explore how people use the coast for leisure and work, and learn about important safety rules and how to care for coastal environments. We will finish the topic with a fun Pirate Adventure Day, where children will apply their learning through creative activities such as map-making, role play and problem-solving.

DT

This half term we will enjoy our cooking unit, 'preparing fruit and veg'. We will make a healthy lunch box for Mr Grinling the lighthouse keeper. Children will use appropriate child safe cutting tools. In Summer 2, we will enjoy learning some textiles joining techniques and we will make our own puppets using basic sewing techniques.

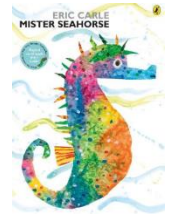


Art



This half term we will be learning about author and illustrator Eric Carle and his unique style of collage techniques in his stories. Children will create their own papers using a range of painting tools and will cut and assemble their shapes into sea creatures to make their own collage. In Summer 2, children will explore the artist Georgia O'Keeffe and create shell drawings inspired by her close-up style. Children

will look carefully at real shells and practise key drawing skills such as using lines and shapes, enlarging an object to fill the page, adding detail, and using light and dark shading. They will build confidence through quick sketches before creating a final large shell artwork.



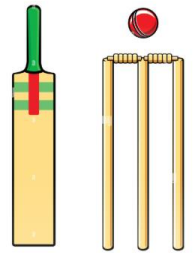
Physical education (PE)



This half term we will be doing athletics and dance. In Athletics, children will develop their fundamental movement skills through fun and active sessions. They will practise running at different speeds, jumping safely and with control, and beginning to throw for distance and accuracy. The focus is on building confidence, coordination, and an enjoyment of being active, while helping children understand how to use their bodies effectively during simple athletic activities. In Dance, children explore how their bodies can move in different ways to music and themes. They learn to copy simple actions,

create their own movements, and work with a partner or small group to build short routines. The focus is on developing coordination, rhythm, and confidence.

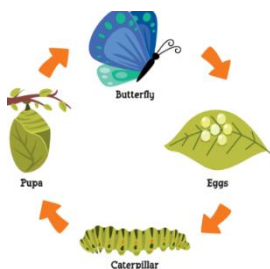
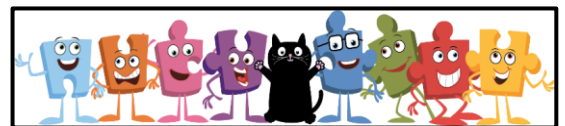
In Summer 2, we will be doing orienteering and cricket. In cricket, children are introduced to the basic skills of the game. They learn how to hold and swing a bat safely, stop and roll a ball with control, and begin practising simple underarm throwing. The focus is on developing coordination, teamwork. In orienteering, children learn simple navigation skills through fun, active challenges. They explore how to follow basic picture or symbol maps, move safely around a space, and work with a partner to find set points or complete small tasks.



Please keep Pe kits in school all week. We have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday. We will likely wear our PE kits home to save us time, so please bring them back in the next day.

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE)

In PSHE this half term, the children are learning about relationships and what helps them feel safe, valued and connected to others. They explore what it means to belong to a family, how to make friends and be a good friend, and how to recognise their own preferences around physical contact. The unit also helps them understand who the trusted people are who can help them, while encouraging self-acknowledgement and being a good friend to themselves. We finish by celebrating the special relationships in their lives and recognising why these connections matter.



In Summer 2, the children will learn about how humans and animals grow and change throughout their life cycles, including thinking about how they themselves have changed since they were babies. They will be introduced to the basic differences between male and female bodies using correct scientific vocabulary, and will explore how growing up is linked to learning new skills and becoming more independent. The unit also supports children in recognising and coping with change, helping them feel confident and prepared as they move on to their next stage of school life.

We have enjoyed watching tadpoles change in our class tank and now we have some butterflies to look after!

Music



This term, Squirrels class will explore the key elements of music—including tempo, pitch, pulse, and dynamics—through traditional stories. The children will use a variety of percussion instruments, and they will develop their listening skills, experiment with creating different sounds, and work together to compose simple pieces of music.

French



Children will be learning names of hobbies/interests and how to express an opinion about them. They are also learning the names of different flavoured ice creams in preparation for the summer holidays!

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 learning 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.

The Year 1 Statutory Phonics screening check is the week commencing Monday 9th June.

Please practice reading the alien words your child has received in their blue phonics file

Phonics bloom has some games you can play too - Obb and bob and Phonics Frog

[Online Phonics Games \(Phase 5\) - PhonicsBloom.com](#)

Phonics play - buried treasure

[Buried Treasure](#)