



11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 1 Class Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 1

Welcome to Year 1!

We are delighted to report that the children have already settled in well to life in Pine Class and have been busy learning the routines and expectations of the school day. You may hear the children talking about 'Rainbow Learning', which refers to the challenges we set out as part of our continuous provision. For those who may be unfamiliar with the term, continuous provision is an approach that extends the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) ethos of play-based learning into Year 1, allowing children to develop their skills through a range of engaging and purposeful activities.

During this term, we will be hosting a Year 1 Parents' Information Meeting. This will provide information about what to expect during your child's Year 1 journey and how you can best support their learning at home. Further details regarding the date and time of the meeting will be shared soon, and we hope to see many of you there.

English

This term, we will be exploring the story 'Naughty Bus'. Through this text, the children will learn to write captions, make predictions and sequence the events of a story. We will then move on to Julia Donaldson's 'Cave Baby', where the children will develop their writing skills by creating simple noun phrases, using adjectives to add detail and punctuating their sentences correctly with capital letters and full stops.

Phonics

The children will continue to develop their phonics knowledge through the Little Wandle programme. This term, we have begun revisiting Phase 3 and Phase 4 phonics to consolidate and strengthen their learning. Towards the end of the term, the children will progress to Phase 5, where they will build on their existing skills and learn a wider range of graphemes and alternative spellings.

Maths

In Maths, we will be focusing on place value and number. The children will learn to count objects accurately and sort them into groups. They will use practical resources, such as cubes, counters and ten frames, to represent numbers and develop their understanding of number relationships. The children will also practise counting forwards from any given number and recognising numbers written as words.

Science

The children will learn about how the weather changes throughout the seasons and observe how trees change over the year. They will also learn that summer has the most daylight hours, while winter has the fewest. Towards the end of the term, the children will develop their geographical knowledge by labelling a map of the United Kingdom with the four capital cities and use weather symbols to represent different weather conditions.

Westlea Primary School, Langstone Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7BT.
phone: 01793 870469. email: admin@westleaschool.org.uk

Learning without limits, belonging without barriers.



History - The topic for this term is 'How am I Making History?' The children will explore the past within living memory and learn about personal chronology by sequencing three events from their own lives.

RE – The children will learn about 'Our Wonderful World' and they will explore different religious accounts about how people and animals are created.

PSHE – Our PSHE learning begins with 'Being Me in My World'. Children will explore the questions 'Who am I?' and 'How do I fit?' They will think about what makes them unique and special, what helps them to feel safe and valued, and how they can contribute positively to their class and school community.

Art – We will focus on drawing, exploring line and shape and experimenting with different ways of creating marks.

PE – This term, PE will focus on Fundamentals and Ball Skills, developing movement, coordination, balance, agility, throwing, catching and ball control. Children will also develop their ability to work safely and cooperatively with others. Indoor PE is on Mondays and outdoor PE on Tuesdays. Please send children in PE kit with suitable trainers; long hair should be tied back.

Reading and Homework

In Year 1, homework will focus on reading and Maths number facts to support the learning taking place in school. Reading regularly at home makes a huge difference to children's progress. Please read with your child a minimum of three times each week and record these reads in their reading record.

Our library visits are on Wednesdays, so please ensure library books are returned on this day in the plastic reading folder provided. Homework will be handed out on Fridays and should be returned to school 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. Being on time helps ensure no learning is missed.

Bags and Cloakroom Space

We kindly ask that children only bring 1 book bag to school each day to hold their reading book, homework and water bottle. Our cloakroom area is quite compact, so larger bags and backpacks can be tricky to store and keep safe.

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 make 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 getting to know your children over the course of the term and we hope they enjoy what we have planned.

Warm regards
The Year 1 Team

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