

PE

Jumping!

We will be exploring different ways we can move, thinking about changing speed, height and the parts of our bodies in contact with the floor. We will then combine these movements in collaborative paired work.

Computing

We will be learning to combine pictures and texts, using drawings we have created using paint programmes, clipart and images we have found online. We will then use these skills to make electronic cards.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...

Science

Seasonal changes

We will be learning about the four seasons, thinking about the way the world around us changes as we move from summer to autumn to winter. We will collect evidence of these changes, gathering leaves, seeds and flowers, and record our observations. We will also identify different types of weather that we associate with each season.

The Arts

We will be looking at the outside environment and using natural resources to make pictures, including sculptures, collages and mobiles. We will be investigating the work of Andy Goldsworthy and Lois Ehlert to inspire us, and will also be developing the way we talk about our work, giving opinions and suggesting ways our art could be improved.

Maths

Our focus at the start of the year will be place value, ensuring we can order, regroup and compare numbers. We will begin with numbers to 20 and will then extend our understanding to make it all the way to 100. A key part of this learning will be to split numbers into 'tens and some more', and we will use lots of resources (including tens frames, bead strings and base 10 blocks) to help us to cement this concept. Alongside this, we will also develop our counting skills, so that we can count on and back in ones and tens from any number to 100 (for instance, counting back in tens from 76). Finally, we will be introduced to the $>$ and $<$ symbols to show that numbers are greater than or less than each other.

Humanities

We will be exploring our local area, investigating Our Changing Town. We will think about the ways in which our local area has changed since we (and our teachers) were born. We will think about 'new' and 'old' objects and will discuss toys and technology which exist now that didn't exist when we were born. We will create a timeline of our own lives, and then work together to extend these to create timelines of our parents or teachers lives. We will also explore the local area first-hand, looking for evidence and examples of things that have changed since we were born.

In RE, we will be thinking about the idea of kindness, discussing what it means to be kind and discussing whether or not it is possible to be kind to everyone all of the time.

English

Our first English unit of the year is built around the story of *The Frog and the Stranger* by Max Velthuijs. We will explore the characters in the story and collect descriptive vocabulary. We will develop our sentence writing by adding the conjunctions *and*, *or* and *but* to link ideas, and will then write our own short stories to describe imaginary events.

After that, we will be focussing on instructions, using *How to Make Friends with a Ghost* by Rebecca Green as our core text.

Throughout the term, we will continue to develop our phonics knowledge through our daily Read Write Inc sessions, working in small groups to learn, decode and blend new sounds.

THE WORLD AROUND US

DORMICE & HEDGEHOGS - AUTUMN 2026

PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- There are loads of paint apps available on every platform, where you can practice the skills we've been using in class. Online, you could try www.youidraw.com/apps/painter/ or kleki.com/

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Throughout the year we are exploring how our environment changes with the seasons. You could build on this at home in lots of ways - exploring the park, making maps or looking for signs of autumn and winter on the way to and from school. What do we do differently as the weather gets colder? What do animals do to prepare for the colder months ahead?

The Arts

- There are some great ideas for creating art from and about nature on the fab Tate Kids site at www.tate.org.uk/kids
- Go on a materials hunt in the park, garden or local woodland, collecting twigs, leaves, conkers and other natural resources, and then see what artwork you can create from them.

Maths

- We've been practicing our counting a lot in class, so building on this at home would be a huge help - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Keep an eye (or ear) out for slip-ups on the tricky teen numbers - and if you get good, extend to counting backwards!
- Practice splitting numbers into tens and ones when you're out and about - this costs £26, so that's 2 tens and 6 ones. Our house is number 48, so how many 10s and how many ones is that?

Humanities

- The core learning in our next topic is about recognising the difference between 'old' and 'new' things and understanding that things change over time - so any discussions that link to this would be really useful. What things in your area have changed over the last few years? Did the toys that your children play with exist when you were a child? What different things did you do when you were their age? If you're visiting grandparents or other (older) relatives before Christmas, compare each generation's experiences - what's changed and what has stayed the same?
- We will be talking about kindness a lot this term, and this would be a great conversation to continue at home - what does it mean to be kind? How can we show kindness to those around us?

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Our aim is to turn all our children into fluent readers, so they should be able to read the books they're bringing home with speed, accuracy and confidence.
- We continue to use the Read Write Inc scheme for our daily phonics sessions, and there's guidance on supporting this at home available at: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/
- You can also find advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf

THE WORLD AROUND US

DORMICE & HEDGEHOGS - AUTUMN 2026