



Class Newsletter

Autumn 2026

Welcome back to school and
welcome to Year 1!



What a fantastic transition your children have made into Year 1 – Well done, everyone! The children have already enjoyed many successes and happy moments, and we look forward to many more.

Year 1 is an important year, with exciting changes as the children move towards a more structured approach to learning. They will also develop greater responsibility and independence as they take on a bigger role within our school community. The Year 1 team are excited to support the children on this journey, helping them grow in confidence and independence while, most importantly, having lots of fun!

Year 1 – Autumn Curriculum Overview

A term full of exciting learning, exploring and growing!

Maths  - Place Value within 10 - Addition & Subtraction - Shape - Position & Direction	English  - Recount - Setting Description - Explanation Text - Fact File
RE  Branch 1: Creation and Covenant Exploring God as Creator and our responsibility to care for His creation.	Science  - Plants - Seasonal Changes Observing and exploring the changes around us.
RSE / PSHE  - Why do we have rules? - Responsibilities and care for our environment	History  What was life like when our grandparents were children? Exploring how life has changed over time.
Geography  What's it like where we live? Exploring our local area and the places around us.	Forest School  Exploring the Outdoors Discovering, investigating and learning through outdoor experiences.
Music  Musical Context Listening, singing, moving and exploring music together.	Art  Drawing and Sketching: Spirals Experimenting with lines, shapes and patterns.
DT  Rain Catchers Designing, making and evaluating our own rain catchers.	Computing  Basic Computing Skills Developing confidence and independence using technology.
PE  - Basic Skills - Outdoor Learning - Tag Rugby - Fitness	A term of learning! We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning, exploring and growing together!

Day-to-Day Expectations

- Children should attend school **every day, on time** and **ready to learn**.
- Please ensure **all uniform**, PE kits (indoor and outdoor) and footwear are clearly **labelled**.
- PE Days are **Monday and Thursday**
- Children should bring a **named water bottle** to school each day.
- We hope to access our Forest School area throughout the year, whatever the weather. Please provide named wellies, an appropriate coat and a change of clothes in a named bag.

Reading Homework

Reading regularly with your child is one of the best ways to support their learning. It develops vocabulary and language, builds confidence and supports future academic success.

- Reading books and Reading Records must be brought to school daily in the plastic zip folder provided.
- Folders will be collected on **Monday** and Reading Records checked by Year 1 adult and book changed if ready.
- Reading Records will be updated as books are changed each week and signed by the school adult reading with your child.
- On **Friday**, your child will bring home a shared reading book linked to the week's Phonics learning. This should form part of their weekly reading experience.
- Children will also choose an enrichment/bedtime book to share and enjoy at home. This may be above their independent reading level and is intended to be read with or to your child.
- Reading Records will be monitored and regular reading encouraged. Children who are not reading regularly at home or having their record signed may use 5 minutes of break time to practise reading at school.

Other homework will be introduced gradually throughout the year. Please refer to the **Homework Policy** for current Year 1 expectations.

Helping at Home – Maths

Children develop mathematical understanding through regular practice and repetition. Year 1 expectations include:

- Counting and ordering numbers to 100 and recognising numbers to 20 in words and digits.
- Solving addition and subtraction calculations within 20, including one more and one less.
- Developing quick recall of number facts to 20, including number bonds.
- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Solving simple multiplication and division problems using practical objects.
- Identifying and describing common 2D and 3D shapes.
- Using simple positional and directional language.

Useful Maths Websites

- [Top Marks – Maths Games](#)
- [ICT Games](#)
- [White Rose 1-Minute Maths](#) – a free app which links to the maths children are learning in school.

Helping at Home – English

Reading

Reading supports children's educational, social and cognitive development. It introduces them to different cultures, countries and environments, develops imagination and supports wellbeing.

Role Play

Role play is a great way to develop vocabulary, conversation and real-life skills. Playing shops, schools, doctors or hairdressers encourages children to talk, ask and answer questions and practise new vocabulary.

Simple Games

Simple games such as *Simon Says* or *I Went to the Shops...* are fun ways to develop listening, memory, concentration and language **skills**.

Writing

In Year 1, children will develop greater independence and confidence in writing. They will apply the phonics and key words they have learned while developing accurate letter and number formation. Children will have many opportunities to write labels, captions and sentences, gradually building towards short narratives.

Useful English Websites

- [Top Marks – English Games](#)
- [ICT Games – Literacy](#)
- [BBC Bitesize – English](#)
- [PhonicsPlay](#)

We look forward to speaking with you at our first Open Evening in October. In the meantime, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to catch us at the door or email me directly at: dionne.alford@allsoulsschool.co.uk

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Alford (Class teacher) **Mrs Elkins** (Teaching Assistant) **Mr Williams** (HLTA)