Year 1 Curriculum Overview – Autumn 2 2026

Literacy	**'Stanley's Stick'** by John Hegley and '**The Magic Bed'** by John Burningham Developing recount and story writing through sequencing, prediction, retelling and exploring characters. Planning and writing sentences using past tense, adjectives and conjunctions such as 'and' and 'because' to extend ideas. Using capital letters, full stops and question marks accurately, and rereading sentences to check they make sense. Developing spelling and handwriting skills, including letter formation and common spelling patterns.
Maths	Developing addition and subtraction within 10 through counting on and back, number bonds and part-part-whole models. Solving number problems using practical resources, number lines and number stories, and exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction through fact families. Recognising, naming and sorting common 2D and 3D shapes according to their properties. Identifying, continuing and creating repeating patterns involving shapes.
Science	Identify, name and sort different materials. Explore building with different materials. Identifying the materials objects are made from including classroom objects. Exploring the properties of materials – sorting into hard and soft, smooth and rough, heavy and light. To know the properties of materials, including flexible, rigid, transparent and opaque. To know why some objects are made of particular materials. Complete investigations into materials and share our conclusions and results about what has been seen.
Art	Exploring primary and secondary colours, including mixing colours to create new shades. Experimenting with paintbrushes to create different lines, thicknesses and effects. Studying the work of Mondrian and Picasso, using their styles and techniques to inspire our own artwork. Developing painting skills through colour blocking, composition and creating self-portraits.
Computing	Developing digital creativity through using a painting program to produce pictures and designs. Exploring different tools, including changing colours and brush sizes, drawing lines and shapes, and using the fill tool. Selecting appropriate tools for different effects and comparing digital artwork with pictures created on paper.
Humanities	Exploring the history of our local area, including who Geoffrey Field was and why our school was named after him. Investigating Victorian schools and comparing school life in the past with our experiences today. Learning about Huntley & Palmer and their significance to Reading, alongside exploring how transport and everyday life have changed over time. Using historical sources to develop an understanding of the past.
Music	Exploring how instruments can produce different sounds and timbres, including changes in volume and speed. Using graphic symbols to represent sounds and developing an understanding of rhythm and keeping a steady beat. Practising singing rhythmically and in tune, and responding to music through movement and simple dance sequences.
PE	**Ball Skills:** Developing coordination, accuracy and control through dribbling, rolling, throwing and catching balls. Practising tracking moving balls and aiming towards targets. **Gymnastics:** Exploring different ways of travelling, balancing and creating shapes. Developing strength, stability and control when linking movements into sequences, both independently and with a partner.
PSHE	Celebrating differences and recognising that everyone is unique, while identifying similarities between ourselves and others. Developing positive friendships through kindness, respect, inclusion and cooperation. Understanding what bullying is, how it affects others and how to seek help. Exploring the importance of kind words, compliments and making others feel valued.
RE	**Christianity:** Exploring the Christmas story and understanding why the birth of Jesus is significant to Christians. Learning about the Nativity, the meaning of Christingle and how art can communicate religious stories. Comparing different ways Christians celebrate Christmas in the UK and around the world, including traditions associated with giving and receiving gifts.
Spoken Language	Talk tactics: Instigate, Build, Challenge, Probe and Summarise. Developing confidence in expressing opinions, explaining reasoning and asking thoughtful questions. Learning to build on, respectfully challenge and summarise others' ideas through structured discussions. Using sentence stems to support clear communication and purposeful talk across the curriculum.