



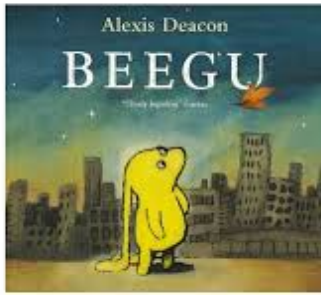
YEAR 1 NEWSLETTER

September 2025



A big welcome to Key Stage 1 and Year 1 — we are really excited about the year ahead! This is the first edition of our half termly Year 1 newsletter, which we hope will keep you informed about the curriculum. Staff working in Year 1 this year are: Miss Sutton in Lapwing class, Mrs Taylor (Monday-Wednesday) and Mrs Knight (Wednesday-Friday) in Crane class and Miss Stevenson in Starling class. We also have Mrs Fox, Mrs Beighton, Mrs Gill, Miss Boltruszko and Miss Shahid supporting across all classes.

English



Each morning we will have our Read Write Inc. program for Phonics lessons. During this time, children will learn new sounds and review taught sounds, as well as practise their spellings and reading. Additionally, they will read a RWI book daily within their groups, helping to reinforce their learning.

In English lessons, we're excited to dive into our first Power of Reading book; *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. This captivating story about a lost alien will be explored through role play, art, and writing, allowing the children to engage with the text in creative and meaningful ways.

Spellings

Pupils will continue to use their phonics knowledge to spell phonetically, however we will be setting high expectations for spelling accuracy. Each half term, we will set key vocabulary for our English texts. These will be displayed in the classroom and we will give the children opportunities to practise these spellings in class.

Key spellings for *Beegu*: **lost, one, away, mother, calling, she, needed, find, friends, wanted.**

Along with the key vocabulary from our English texts, we will also be focusing on spelling the common exception words accurately. We will focus on a handful of these words at a time.

Maths



We'll begin the year by honing our understanding of place value. This will include recognising numbers up to 20 in different representations, practising writing numbers using accurate formation and counting both forwards and backwards from 0 to 20. Next, we'll delve into addition and subtraction, where we'll learn to identify 1 more and 1 less, master number bonds to 10 and explore simple equations while understanding the functions of the symbols (+, -, =) within them.

Science



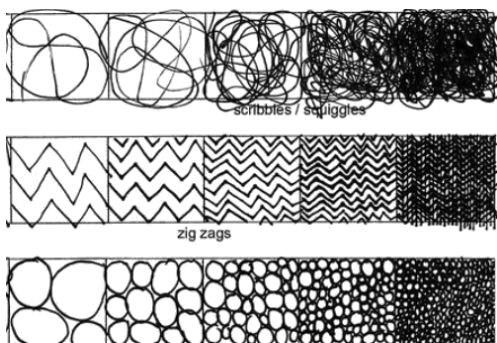
Our enquiry question this half term in science is 'What are our senses and how do they link to our body?' We will begin the half term by finding out what the children already know about their bodies and the names for different parts of our bodies. We will then explore how different parts of our body are linked to each of the five senses: sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing. We will work scientifically by asking questions and exploring each sense in turn.

History



In our weekly history sessions, we'll embark on an exciting journey to uncover the concept of history. We'll start by reflecting on what history is and some key eras in British history using pictures to try to order these events from oldest to newest. From there, we'll leap back in time to the Victorian era, where we'll explore how schooling has evolved over the years. We'll delve into what life might have been like at Westways during that period, offering a vivid contrast to today. Throughout our sessions, we'll work together to answer our enquiry question: 'How has school changed since the Victorian era?' A highlight of our exploration will be a visit from 'The History Van' at the end of the half term, which will bring the past to life with an immersive Victorian school day experience.

Art



In this unit we will explore the technique of drawing and how we can show light and dark (tone) within our artwork. We will focus on the pressure we can use when drawing and the patterns we can draw to achieve tone in drawing. After practising these drawing skills with different mediums, we will create an observational drawing using both pencil and chalk showing off the skills we have learnt.

Religious Education (RE)

In our weekly RE lessons we are looking at the enquiry question: 'What does it mean to belong to a faith community?' We will start by looking at what a community is, which ones we belong to and what people might do, say or wear to show they belong to a community. We will then move on to looking at the religions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism and explore artefacts and objects that show belonging to that faith community. Finally, we will explore how some of these communities show belonging through weddings and welcoming new babies into the faith community.

Music

In this unit we will introduce and explore what is meant by 'beat' in music. We will do this through using our voices and bodies creatively to demonstrate beat and by singing songs. As part of our music enrichment we will visit the Crucible Theatre to watch a performance by Ensemble 360 of 'The Storm Whale'. We will listen to live instrument performances and join in with singing songs and actions to re-tell the story.

Relationships & Health Education (RHE)

Our focus this half term is on how we can help keep our bodies healthy. We will look at the importance of exercise and diet (including drinking pure water) as well as handwashing, teeth brushing and getting a good amount of sleep each night.

Physical Education (PE)

In Y1, each class receives two PE sessions a week; one taught by our sports specialist, Mr Millns, and the other by the class teachers. This term our PE focus is Athletics. During our sessions we will learn to master basic movements such as running, jumping, throwing and catching, as well as developing balance, agility and coordination and begin to apply these in a range of activities.

PE days for Year 1 are as follows:

Lapwings: Tuesday and Friday

Cranes: Tuesday and Thursday

Starlings: Wednesday and Thursday.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit at school, containing: Westways river team sports shirt, dark shorts/leggings/joggers, trainers/plimsolls. PE lessons will be outside whenever possible. Please remove all jewellery at home on PE days.

Computing

In this unit we will introduce the names for the different parts of a computer and what they are used for, and learn how to use a keyboard to type. We will then move onto the importance of passwords and logons/logins to keep ourselves safe when using computers. Finally we will look at how to save into files which we will then be able to use in our future learning in Year 1.

Home Learning

Each half term, an optional homework grid will be sent home with your child to complete over the half term. In addition, daily reading is strongly encouraged, please make sure any reading is recorded in their reading record and brought into school everyday so that it is available to be checked by the class teacher.

School colour banded reading books will be changed after teachers see that it has been read over three different occasions at home. Library books will be changed weekly if the old library book is returned each week.

Contact Details

Your child's teacher can be contacted via the email below if you have anything you wish to discuss with them.

→ enquiries@westways.sheffield.sch.uk