



Year 1

Curriculum Update

Spring Term 2026

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At RAB we have used our extensive knowledge of what engages and interests children to create our own theme based curriculum based on children's books.



Themes

During this Spring Term in Year 1 we will be following the themes:

Once Upon a Time (1st half term) and Toys (2nd half term).

All of our topic work will follow these themes, enabling us to create truly cross-curricular learning. In the first half of the term we will be learning about traditional tales, making our own story scene with a moving character using sliders and leavers in Design Technology to create a moving picture linking to fairy tales. After half term, we will be looking at the history of toys and how they have changed over time. Our English lessons will be based on 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey and the adventures that he goes on.

English

In English this term, we will be following the book-based themes outlined above. The children will continue to focus on sentence structure and ensuring that they have used capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. They will be encouraged to sequence sentences to form short narratives and this will be seen through the writing they do based on traditional tales and Traction Man. The children will continue to take part in class based phonics sessions and we will soon have completed the teaching of all of the phase 5 graphemes. The children will revise these over the Spring term to ensure they are embedded. Whole Class Guided Reading sessions will continue throughout the Spring term with us continuing to teach extract based sessions on Monday and Tuesday, followed by phonics based sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Children will participate in handwriting sessions at least twice per week and the children will now learn to write in the pre-cursive style. The letters start on the line with a whoosh and end with a flick (no joining). Spellings, which are high frequency words, will be on our weekly Note Home, you can practise these and this is a good opportunity to ensure that they are forming their letters correctly and reinforcing the connection between what a word looks like and what it sounds like.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the main focus this half term is place value between 10 and 20 and addition and subtraction. They will develop their understanding of numbers between 10 and 20 and different ways of representing them before moving on to comparing, ordering and estimating using these numbers. After this, the children will apply their addition and subtraction knowledge to numbers within 20. This will



include a focus on subtraction using a number line and finding the difference. After half term, we will mostly focus on understanding numbers up to 50. We will then look at length, height, mass and volume. The children will measure using standard and non-standard units (standard: centimetres and non-standard: cubes). The children have really enjoyed our number fluency sessions which we started in the autumn term. So far, the children have completed the units on one more and one less and two more and two less. In the first half of the spring term, the children will be learning 'Number 10 fact families'. This will develop the children's fluency with number bonds to 10. In the second half of the

spring term, the children will complete two units, one called 'Know About Zero' and another called 'Five and a Bit'

Science

In Science the children are always taught which discipline they are using. They might come home saying they have been a biologist, a physicist or a chemist. This term, the children will be biologists. In the first half-term we will be developing their knowledge of animals including humans. We will be identifying the features of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals). We will develop our scientific skill of comparing different animal groups. We will also look at seasonal change and similarities and difference between winter and spring. After half-term we will begin to look at plants. The children will identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. They will then also look common flowering plants including trees. We will carry out an investigation into the conditions needed to make a seed germinate.

History/Geography

In the second half term, the children will look at toys in history. The children will look at how toys have changed over time especially at how toys can be the same but are now made from different materials and they will also look at some of the toys they play with now that were also around a long time ago. The children will sequence events from their own lives, looking at what they played with from a baby to now. They will also order artefacts from different periods of time on a timeline. We hope to have a visit from Pop Up Play Village, where the children will get to explore a wide range of role play toys as well as an opportunity to be up close to toys from the past. Further details will follow.

Design Technology & Art

In Art this term they will begin with painting and in the second half of the term the children will be learning weaving techniques. The children will create their own Starry Night themed pictures using a range of painting skills. The children will learn to mix primary colours to create secondary colours and will use a range of tools to apply the paint. In the second half term the children will create their own weaving inspired by Anni Albers. The children will learn to weave with paper and card before moving on to using material and looms. In DT, the children will be learning that different mechanisms produce different types of movement. They will be making sliders and levers. They will design, make and evaluate their own moving fairy tale picture. They will create the scene and then make the character move.



Music & PE

All the Year 1 children will have weekly Music lessons with Mrs Cooper or Mrs Mckeckney. The lessons will be based around fairy tales, including Jack and the Beanstalk. They will experience different musical instruments, learn a call and response song and they will explore how pitch can be used for characters, as well as how musical sound effects can help tell a story. Children will have PE sessions twice per week, in one of these lessons the children will be learning fundamental skills, including running, jumping, throwing and catching. They will also enjoy dance and gymnastics lessons throughout this term.

Computing

In Computing the children will be learning how to move robots. The children will be introduced to early programming concepts. The children will combine commands to make a sequence, including forwards and backward, and then moving on to combining four direction commands to make sequences. Children will start by giving and following instructions to each other before moving on to using the Beebots.

PSHE/Religious Education

The children will continue to have weekly PSHE sessions. Over the term the children will focus on Family and Friends and then Financial Capabilities. Family and Friends aims to develop the children's ability to describe some ways friends might act or behave, recognising the diversity in friendships and that friendship patterns change. They will consider the importance of telling the truth in order to build their friendships on firm foundations. They will address strategies for coping with difficult situations in

friendships. They will begin to learn about their rights to personal space and to explore their own boundaries, starting to understand about giving and getting consent in friendships. Financial Capabilities will focus on helping the children to understand what money is, where it might come from and that it is a finite resource, which we can use in a variety of ways. They will explore the difference between needs and wants and the choices spending money might involve. They will consider how the choices we make might affect ourselves and others. They will explore what a charity is and what it might do.

In R.E. the children will be completing a theology unit based on what Jewish people remember on Shabbat. We will learn about the traditions, rules and significance of Shabbat alongside the Jewish story of creation. After half term, we will complete a second theology unit based on the meaning of the cross in Christianity. We will learn about the importance of the Easter story and examine the meaning of different crosses.

Classroom agreements



The children continue to use the 6R's and understand their importance. They continue to earn house points which link to the 6R's. They also use the Zones of regulations and always follow their class charters and oracy agree

The **ZONES** of Regulation®

BLUE ZONE Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	GREEN ZONE Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	YELLOW ZONE Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	RED ZONE Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

Supporting your child's learning

In order to support your child's learning there are a range of things you can do at home, making it fun and relevant for them

- Read with and to your child regularly – whilst we believe it is important for the children to practising reading aloud to an adult daily, they also need to listen to good quality picture books being read to them as an opportunity to be exposed to texts that are currently beyond their own reading capability. The children are welcome to bring a picture book home from school daily to support this.
- Allow them to help around the house, using it as an opportunity to practise maths skills such as counting in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Log in to NumBots to support your child with their number fluency
- Help them to practise spelling and phonic sounds or high frequency words.
- Encourage your children to use pre-cursive writing once we have taught them each of the letters.
- Draw and colour with them so that they can see how we hold a pencil properly and learn to imitate this.
- Visit museums linked to our themes.
- Play games and focus on taking turns.
- Practise weaving and threading ready for our art lessons in the next half term.