

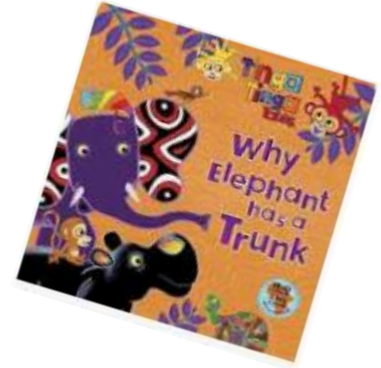


Year 1

Curriculum Update

Summer 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 Summer Term in Year 1 we will be following the themes:

Ahoy there me hearties! (1st half term) and Africa, Africa (2nd half term).

All our topic work will follow these themes, enabling us to create truly cross-curricular learning. We will start off the Summer Term with our much-loved Pirate Day, full of fancy dress and pirate themed activities. After this, we will be looking at themes such as *climate and weather, the history of the seaside, and human and physical geography.*

In the second half of term, we will be visiting Colchester Zoo (details to follow soon) where we will get up close with African animals and will use our experiences to help us with non-fiction writing when we return to school. We will also explore the ideas of *comparing geographical locations, African animals and culture.*

English

In English this term we will be following the book-based themes outlined above. To begin with we will be using adjectives to describe, in our narrative units. The children will be writing character descriptions and learning to use 'and' and 'but' to join sentences. After half-term, one of our key learning points will be to understand non-chronological report writing. The children will have the opportunity to write a recount of our trip to the zoo as well as complete research for and then write their own fact file about their favourite African animals. We will be setting high expectations for children to independently use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in their writing.

We will also be continuing with our class-based phonics sessions. This half term we will be recapping the phase 5 sounds, and the children will complete guided reading sessions which link to the graphemes that have been taught. They will also complete two extract based guided reading sessions each week. After half-term, the children will have their phonics screening check (you will be informed of their scores when you receive their end of year report) and then we will be teaching more of the alternative pronunciations in phonics. Spellings which are tricky words or common exception words will continue to be taught in daily phonics sessions, and we encourage you to practise these words with your child at home. You can find them on our weekly note on SeeSaw. We will continue to run weekly handwriting sessions and the letters we practise will be on our note home. You could also practise these at home or any words which have these letters in.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will start by looking at place value to 50. The children learn to count forward and backwards to 50 and then 100 after half term. They will also partition numbers into tens and ones, which they can already do with numbers to 20. The children will then focus on Multiplication and Division (the early skills of making equal groups and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s), Number Fractions, Geometry (position and movement) and Time. This will include lots of work on place value; encompassed in all sessions will be mental work and practical tasks as well as some written recording. As part of a focus on mental maths strategies the children will also be continuing to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and developing their number bonds to 10 and 20 recall.

Please support this by regularly making time to practise speedy recall of number facts with your child e.g. $0 + 10$, $1 + 9$, $2 + 8$, $12 + 8$ etc. A good game aimed at developing speedy recall is 'Hit the Button': <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

In our number fluency sessions, we will finish our unit on Know About Zero and will then move onto Doubles and Near Doubles. Don't forget, you can also log your child onto NumBots using the details in their reading record. In our This is great for practising number fluency.



Science

In Science our aim is to provide opportunities for practising the key scientific skills of observation and the ability to identify similarities and differences. The first half-term we will be focussing on plants. They will learn about the composition of plants and will be able to label the parts of a plant. We are looking forward to visiting Bridge End Gardens. Following that we will shift to looking at animals as part of our Africa theme – we will all look forward to spotting African animals at Colchester Zoo.

History/Geography

We will be improving our geographical skills looking at the continents (especially Africa) – we will be learning their names as well as the names of the oceans/seas around the UK. In history, we will be going to the Seaside – looking at how the Victorians spent their time on holiday and comparing it to our holidays now.

Design Technology & Art

In DT this term, Year 1 will be designing and making a fruit salad. They will have the opportunity to try different fruits and learn the correct and safe way to use a knife to cut and chop with. They will of course then eat it! In art, the children will be looking at African art. They will closely observe different animal skin patterns as well as designing and printing their own Kente cloth patterns.



Music & PE

In PE the children will be developing their athletics skills in preparation for our Sports Morning. They will also be introduced to the skills used in 3Tees Cricket. All the Year 1 children will have weekly Music lessons throughout the summer term. In the first half term the children will be looking at sea shanties and pirate themed songs. In the second half of the term, our music lessons will be themed around Africa and we hope to have an African Drumming workshop.

PSHE/Religious Education

PSHE will be taught by other members of staff from across the school as part of the rotation of activities the children will complete whilst their teachers are in PPA time. RE will be taught by the class teachers. This term in PSHE (Personal, Social, & Health Education) we will be discussing the theme of personal safety and managing change. The children will think about changes that they have already experienced, and the children will understand that they have the right to feel safe at all times. They will identify feelings and know that they can always talk to someone. At the end of the first half term, the children will also complete their RSE unit with their class teacher (more details to follow). In RE we will be looking at how the universe came to be according to the Hindu faith. We will be looking at the Hindu creation story and comparing it to the Christian creation story which the children are already familiar with.

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.

- Listen to your child read at least three times per week and record this in their reading record.
- 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.
- Help them to practise spelling tricky words or common exception words.
- Engage your children in discussions about topical issues the world around them. There are specially produced newspapers for children as well as TV programmes such as 'Newsround'.
- Draw and colour with them so that they can see how we hold a pencil properly and learn to imitate this.
- Practise writing and ensure your child is holding their pencil correctly and forming the letters correctly
- Visit museums or places that link to our themes.
- Play games and focus on taking turns.
- Encourage your child to try different fruits in preparation for our fruit salad making.