

Key Stage 1 - Half Term Curriculum Overview

Year 2 2024/2025 - Spring 1

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas. I am pleased to provide you with information about the topics and subjects we will be covering during Spring first half term. Our main class reader this half term will be 'The Dragon sitter' by Josh Lacey. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me either on the door or by email. Kind Regards Mrs Thomason and Mrs Birchall.

Catholic life of the school

On a Monday morning, we begin the week by gathering to reflect on the week ahead and pray together. On Friday, we have Celebration Assembly, when we celebrate the achievements of children from each class. Key Stage assemblies take place on Wednesday. In class the children will continue to plan and lead prayer and liturgy with their teacher on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The children will attend a variety of school Masses/services, in Church, throughout the year. The oldest and youngest children will also link up for prayer and liturgy/Mass together. The Wednesday Word is available online for each child, every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child. <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

During this term the children will be involved in charity works, particularly during Lent. We will be taking part in fundraising activities and raising awareness of local charities through the 'Good Shepherd Appeal' for Nugent Care and also be raising funds for CAFOD, which supports global charity work, by taking part in 'The Big Lent Walk'. We look forward to welcoming a CAFOD representative to talk to us about this event.

The children will also have the opportunity to take home a class purple prayer bag, during Lent, to share in some reflective time with their family and record it in a class book.

Healthy School Initiative

As part of the healthy school initiative, we continue to encourage the children to be active at playtimes and improve their fitness by completing the 'Daily Mile'. This is done from a walking pace to a jogging/running pace as each child increases in speed and ability.

Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day; therefore, it is important that the children have their bottles in everyday! It makes it easier for the children if the bottles have a sports top, as it would prevent any unnecessary spillage.

Healthy snacks can be brought into school each day and the children will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes. A piece of fruit will be offered to every child in Key Stage 1 at afternoon playtime.

Information and dates to remember:

6th January 2026: Whole School Mass, 9.15am.

19th—23rd January 2026: Big School Garden Bird Watch

29th January 2026: Individual School photographs

10th February 2026: Safer internet day

13th February 2026: Close for half term.

23rd February - School reopens.

Homework information

will be posted on Google Classrooms.

- **English homework** will be given out on a Friday and is to be handed in the following Tuesday.

- **Spellings** will be taught and practised in school and given out to practise at home on a Wednesday. Throughout the year the focus is on children using spelling patterns and embedding their spellings into their written work.

- **Maths homework** will be given out on a Tuesday and is to be handed in on Friday of the same week.

- **Reading** Each child should read for a minimum of 15 minutes per night and complete their reading records.

Concerns and Messages

If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to come in and see us at the end of the school day.

teachers@socps.co.uk

Please contact me via the school office or at the hall door.

Year 2**General Class
Information****Mental Maths**

We will be focusing on learning our times tables and doubling and halving numbers up to 20.

Please encourage your child to use their Maths skills at every opportunity.

Speaking and Listening

Talk with your child about things you are doing together. Explain new words and phrases and give your child words to use if s/he is struggling with an explanation. Always encourage your child to ask questions and listen to the answers.

Reading

We have invested heavily in our scheme, for 'Early Reading and Phonics'. The scheme is called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' and is on the Government accredited list for teaching phonics. You can visit their website for more information and look at the parent section, which will show videos of how the children will be taught to pronounce the different letters and sounds.

Our class reading books this half term will include 'The dragon sitter' by Josh Lacey and The Dragon Machine by Helen Ward.

The children will bring home one or two decodable books, which they can read more fluently and will have practised in school the previous week. Any other book taken home will be a book to share with you reading to or with your child. Please ensure that the decodable book is returned to school on time as other children will be relying on using the book, the following week. (A cost will be incurred for any books that are lost or damaged).

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A reading practice book (Decodable phonic book)

This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.

A sharing book (library book)

Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, encourage them to have a go and then read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Please continue to complete reading record books each night, to communicate how your child has read or enjoyed a book with you.

Sharing book

In order to encourage your child to develop their vocabulary and become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

For more information, you can access <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

We look forward to working together, to keep reading a pleasurable experience for all our children and embracing the new scheme as we move forward together.

The school continues to run an early-doors reading and number club: 8am - 8:45am each morning. We ask that children are in the club by 8.20am.

RE**Branch 3 - Galilee to Jerusalem**

In this branch, pupils will deepen their knowledge about who Jesus is and understand his teachings through parables and miracles. Children will revisit the theme of God calling people back to him (Noah) and that the Sacrament of Baptism is God welcoming him into a relationship with Him in the Christian family. Children will think about how Christians use prayer as a way of turning back to God alongside the symbolism of water as a sign of cleansing and new birth.

Please read the RE Newsletter on the school website for more information.

Science - Every day materials

- Name objects and describe how the materials they are made from suit their purpose.
- Sort and group objects based on materials and properties.
- Make predictions and find ways to test materials.
- Recognise how different forces can change the shape of solid objects.

English**Spelling**

Pupils will learn to spell by:

- segmenting spoken words into phonemes and representing these by graphemes, spelling many correctly.
- learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including a few common homophones.
- learning to spell common exception words.
- learning to spell more words with contracted forms.
- learning the possessive apostrophe (singular) [for example, the girl's book].
- distinguishing between homophones and near-homophones.

Composition

Pupils will learn to develop positive attitudes towards stamina for writing by:

- writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fiction).
- writing about real events.
- writing poetry.
- writing for different purposes.

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation

Pupils should be able to develop their understanding of the following concepts:

- learning how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly, including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular).
- sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation, command.
- expanded noun phrases to describe and specify [for example, the blue butterfly].
- the present and past tenses correctly and consistently including the progressive form.
- subordination (using when, if, that, or because) and co-ordination (using or, and, or but).

Mathematics**Geometry - Properties of Shapes**

- To accurately count vertices on a 3D shape.
- To sort 3D into groups.
- To describe movements of a shape.
- To describe how a shape can turn in different directions.
- To accurately count faces on a 3D shape.
- To accurately count edges on a 3D shape.

Money

- To count money in pence.
- To count money in pound.
- To count a combination of pounds and pence.
- To correctly choose notes and coins.

Number- Multiplication and Division

- Use multiplication facts for the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables, make arrays and understand multiplication as repeated addition.
- Understand division as sharing into equal groups, introduce division sign.
- Divide by 2, 5 and 10.
- To know related multiplication and division facts.

History - How did we learn to fly?

- Identify important events surrounding the history of flight.
- Explain how a significant event has changed the lives of others.
- Ask questions about people and events in the past.
- Use primary sources to find out about people and events in the past.
- Correctly order five events on a timeline.

**PSHE****Belonging to a community**

Children will learn:

- About being a part of different groups, and the role they play in these groups e.g. class, teams, faith groups.
- About different rights and responsibilities that they have in school and the wider community.
- About how a community can help people from different groups to feel included.
- To recognise that they are all equal, and ways in which they are the same and different to others in their community.

RSE - Journey in Love**Physical:**

- Children will learn how we meet God's love in the community

Art**Painting and mixed media: Life in colour**

Taking inspiration from the collage work of artist Romare Bearden, children will learn:

- To develop knowledge of colour mixing.
- To know how texture can be created with paint.
- To use paint to explore texture and pattern.
- To compose a collage, choosing and arranging materials for effect.
- To evaluate and improve artwork.

PE

The children will be continuing real P.E skills to develop balance, co-ordination and agility using floor movements and small games.

Gymnastics:

- To perform balance skills combined with hand apparatus, low apparatus, partners, and large apparatus.
- To perform travelling skills combined with hand apparatus, low apparatus, partners, and large apparatus.
- To show and tell others about my ideas.
- To use equipment appropriately and move and land safely.
- To select and link movements together to fit a theme.

Our Curriculum Map**Computing**

Children will find out about:

Programming and commands

- Describe what a command is and what it does.
- Recall the key rules a command must follow
- Give examples of commands from daily life.
- Follow commands and instructions.
- Describe that instructions are made of commands.
- Recognise that commands must be in order.
- Recognise and fix errors in commands.
- Check that instructions work correctly.
- Share instructions with others.
- To create a leaflet to help someone search for information on the Internet.

Music

Children will learn to:

- To use voices and instruments, listen and sing back, then listen and play an answer using two notes, with F moving to G.
- To take it in turns to improvise using F or F and G.
- To Listen and clap back, then listen and clap your own answer (rhythms of words).
- To learn about voices singing notes of different pitches (high and low).
- To learn that they can make different types of sounds with their voices - you can rap (spoken word with rhythm).
- We will be using our on-line music resource 'Charanga'.