



*St
Charles*

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 1 Curriculum Letter Spring Term:

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas break. Outlined below is a brief description of the curriculum areas we will be covering up until Easter. Information about routines and expectations are also detailed to help you support your child to do their best.

English:

Reading

Reading remains a vital aspect of your child's education. It becomes very evident in children's writing when they read regularly. Thus, to best support your child, please ensure they read at home every evening. This can be from a variety of texts including news articles and picture books. Your child has been issued with a reading folder, 1 or 2 levelled reading books and a 'reading for pleasure' book that they will independently choose from the class library. In addition, they take home their yellow Reading Record which will have a list of recommended reading books inside. I kindly ask if you could listen to your child read and sign these Reading Records at least three times a week. Listening to your child read and asking questions about what they have read will support their comprehension and retrieval skills. Progress can only be made with this invaluable parental support. Reading records will be checked and books will be renewed every Friday.

Reading folders must be brought in everyday.

Shared Texts in Class:

The children will read and study a variety of texts from a range of genres including fiction and non-fiction.

Guided Reading

Children will continue to take part in regular guided reading lessons where a text is discussed and key reading skills such as reading comprehension and inference are developed.

Writing

Children will be given the opportunity to develop their own creative writing and evaluate their own work. We will continue to work on basic skills, which will include regular handwriting practice, work on phonics, spellings and vocabulary as well as working on grammar and punctuation. Children will learn how to write sentences using their writing rules to support (think it, say it, write and read it). They will use images to support their writing in order to tell stories and will re-read what they have written to check it makes sense. Children will write for different purposes as well as learn how to plan their writing by either discussing their ideas or noting down key words.

Phonics

Children will continue to receive daily phonic lessons using the Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme (ELS). We use a simple, consistent approach to teaching phonics. Your child will experience the same classroom routines within each lesson which reduces cognitive load and maximises the chances of success. **Review, Teach, Practise, Apply, Review.** All children are supported within the lesson, and throughout the day, to use their new phonic knowledge independently. In every single ELS lesson, your child will make the direct application to reading in order for them to read well quickly.

Spellings

Children will be given weekly spellings to learn and practise at home in preparation for a spelling quiz on Friday. Please can you support your child to write their spelling sentences in their blue spelling books.

Maths:

This term, year 1 will be covering the following Maths topics:

- **Time:** (Half past and o'clock)
- **Exploring Calculation Strategies within 20**
- **Numbers to 50**
- **Addition and Subtraction within 20**
- **Fractions** ($\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a shape, object or quantity)
- **Length and Mass** (Centimetres cm and kilograms kg)

Science

This term, children will be exploring Animals including Humans. By the end of the spring term, they will: Explain some of the changes that occur in humans from when they are born; Describe some of the characteristics that occur as humans get older; identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals; and describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene humans.

RE

This term we will be covering the following topics:

Spring 1: Galilee to Jerusalem

In this branch, pupils will be introduced to the belief that through Jesus' ministry, many recognised him as the Son of God. They will reflect on the significance of biblical events, such as the recognition of Jesus by Simeon and Anna, who see beyond the baby to the truth of his divinity. This will also focus on St. Luke's portrayal of Jesus as a compassionate figure who reaches out to society's marginalised, including the poor, women, and outsiders. Pupils will explore how Jesus' character attracts followers and demonstrates love and kindness.

Spring 2: Desert to Garden

In this branch, Year 1 pupils will explore the season of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter, learning about the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and the resurrection, concluding with the women encountering the angel at the empty tomb. The focus highlights the divinity of Christ and the message of God the Father. Lent

traditions, integrated into the school's prayer life and charitable activities, deepen pupils' understanding of Easter as the pinnacle of the Christian year, contrasting with its cultural association with chocolate.

The Wednesday Word is also available online each week. Please spend some time sharing it with your child and discussing the Gospel of that Sunday and its message for us.

History - Our history topic this spring term is

Toys Past and Present - In this unit, the children will explore toys as historical evidence to find out what life was like for children in the past. They will learn that toys are artefacts which can give us clues about how people lived, what materials they used, and how children played at different times. The children will begin by exploring the toys they play with today before investigating toys from the past. They will use photographs, old toys, memories, and museum-style evidence to ask and answer questions about childhood long ago. Through comparison and discussion, the children will learn that some toys have changed over time, while others have stayed the same.

Geography - Our geography topic this term is

Let's go to the Jungle-We will be exploring the following questions: Can I locate jungles around the world and begin to describe them? What are some features and weather of Indian tropical seasonal forests? Where are mangroves and what are their features and weather? Where are cloud forests and what are their features? What are the similarities and differences between a British woodland and a tropical jungle? What have I learned about jungles and tropical forests?

Art

This half term we will be exploring paintings of children, exploring what paintings can tell us about the past and looking at how art can give us messages.

Design and Technology

During the second part of the term, year one will focus on Food and Nutrition. Children will explore healthy foods and plan, create and evaluate a fruit salad.

Computing

This half term we will be learning about Algorithms in Computing. We will be using an unplugged approach so that algorithms, decomposition and debugging are made relatable to familiar contexts, such as dressing up and making a sandwich, while learning why instructions need to be very specific.

Music:

In "Exploring Pitch 1: High and Low", and "Creating Music: Sound Effects and Storytelling", Year 1 learners delve into pitch exploration, specifically differentiating between high and low pitches. This unit aligns with the curriculum's objective of introducing pitch concepts. Students begin to develop their pitch recognition abilities, setting the stage for more intricate pitch-related activities, such as singing and playing melodies in subsequent years. The early forms of dot notation will be used with symbols of the song. This unit introduces the term pitch for the first time, as well as the singing names and the hand signs in more detail. Pupils explore creating music that enhances storytelling, building their creative and expressive musical skills. This foundation will be instrumental as they progress to compose more complex pieces in Key Stage 2.

Spanish:

Celebrations

In this unit children learn language relating to celebrations of special occasions and of their achievements in activities and games. They also learn to say the month of their birthday. This unit consolidates language-learning strategies such as practising new language with a friend and repeating new words rhythmically. It provides opportunities for children to say more about themselves. Children add to their repertoire of games to play in Spanish.

Portraits

In this unit children learn the names for main parts of the body and describe colours. They ask and answer questions about physical appearance. Children use newly learnt vocabulary to describe themselves and others. They consolidate their knowledge of sound and spelling links as well as question forms.

PSHE & RSE:

Children will explore the topic of Emotional Wellbeing. They will gain a religious understanding of being created to live in a community as well as living in the wider world. Children will also look at the importance of respecting others. We will explore the topic of 'Keeping Safe' during the second half term where they learn about their own mental wellbeing, being safe and having caring friendships.

PE

This half term, children will take part in dance and gymnastics on Monday afternoons. The children will be expected to arrive in school on the day of their PE sessions in their full St Charles PE kit; which is a St Charles/plain white t-shirt, navy shorts/bottoms and trainers. Children are **NOT** to wear football kits. After half term, the children will take part in gymnastic sessions, where again, the children will be required to wear their full St. Charles PE kit. Please ensure your child has a bottle of water.

Stationery and Uniform

It is helpful for your child to have a pencil case containing the following equipment: pencil, rubber, sharpener, coloured pencils, ruler and 1 glue stick. Please ensure full school uniform is always worn and is **clearly labelled** with your child's name as well as any equipment your child may bring in, including water bottles.

Collection and Home Time

Regarding children being collected, please ensure you have called the office or notified the teacher if there is somebody different due to collect your child. We will not be able to dismiss your child for child protection reasons without this information.

Homework:

Children will usually be set formal homework twice a week as follows:

Spellings set on a Monday ready for the test on Friday. Please ensure your child brings their blue spelling book to school every Friday so that spelling sentences can be marked and updated. Advice for completing spelling homework will be outlined on the inside cover of your child's blue spelling book.

English/Grammar and **maths** homework will be sent home on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. The children will continue to receive upcoming phonemes and Harder to Read and Spell Words for phonics prior to their learning. Please read these with your child to prepare them for their lessons.

If you do have any concerns, please do contact me and we can arrange a time to speak. You can reach me at class1d@st-charles.rbkc.sch.uk

This email address is not for informing the school of absence; the main office must be contacted in that instance. Please remember that as I am in class teaching during the day, I may not be able to reply instantly, but will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have an urgent concern, please phone the school directly on 020-8969-5566.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your child this term.

Best wishes

Ms. Denis

Year 1 Class Teacher