YEAR 1 NEWSLETTER

Find out about our learning this fortnight.

Friday 13th November 2026

We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half term. The children have certainly come back full of enthusiasm, ready to learn and we are excited to see the progress they will continue to make this half term. We have lots of exciting things in store, including our first geography and art units and of course, all things Christmas, including our Christmas show! Be prepared to start hearing the children singing their hearts out around the house very soon...

English

Last week, we began looking at instructions. We identified the key features of instructions and then followed a set of instructions to make a pirate-themed thaumotrope. This week, we discovered that the jigsaw pieces we found on Pirate Day were actually instructions explaining how to trap a pirate! Over the next week we will follow, orally rehearse and write a clear set of instructions to ensure that no pirates can get past us!

Maths

Over the past two weeks, we have been learning about fractions. We have learnt how to find halves and quarters of shapes and quantities. We have also continued to practise counting forwards and backwards in 2s. See if your child can count in 2s while climbing the stairs or marching along the street.

Science

We are continuing to learn about both seasonal change and materials in science this half term. Last week we went on an autumn walk around our school grounds to look for signs of autumn. We worked like scientists by collecting lots of different leaves which we then sorted by colour, size and shape. We also tried to identify which trees they might have come from.

This week we revisited our materials knowledge and explored the question 'Is there a pattern to the types of materials most commonly in our school grounds?' We drew something we could see outside on a whiteboard, identified the material used and then added it to our giant block graph. This helped us look for patterns in our results, which is one of our enquiry skills.

Foundation Subjects and Other News

Geography

Our Geography this half term focuses on learning to read maps, a handy skill for a budding pirate! This week we have learned how a key helps us to read a map. We also had a go at making a plan perspective of our classroom to use in a game of find the treasure. We have also learned the difference between human and physical features.

Art

We enjoyed our first art lesson last week, learning how to draw a pirate face and a pirate girl. We had to listen carefully to the artist and followed them step by step to create our drawings, then chose to colour them or leave them as pencil drawings. We are building our art skills towards a final impressive pirate picture.

Christmas Performances

As we look forward to our Christmas performances, we would like to remind families that attendance is limited to two adults per child. We know how special these occasions are and appreciate that many parents, grandparents and other family members would love to attend. We regularly consider alternative arrangements and review our approach each year. However, when making decisions, we must place the children's best interests at the centre. Keeping performances as full year-group productions allows all children to participate together, helps us make the best use of limited rehearsal and hall time, and avoids placing additional demands on children during an already busy and exciting time of year. While we understand that limiting spaces can be disappointing for some families, we believe this approach provides the best balance between enabling families to enjoy the performances and ensuring that the experience remains positive and manageable for the children.

Upcoming Dates/PE Days Autumn 2

A reminder that our PE days this half term are Mondays and Thursdays.

Friday 27th November Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 3rd December PTA Christmas Quiz @ WBHS
Monday 7th December Flu Immunisations
Thursday 10th December Year 1 Christmas performance.
Wednesday 16th December Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December break up for holidays

Proud to Make a Positive Impact!