

Welcome to Opal Class!

September 2023

I am very proud of the way that the children have started to settle into their new classroom environment. The children are managing the transition extremely well and we will continue to support them, socially and emotionally, as well as academically. In order for you to support your child at home, here is an outline of the different subject areas taught and the topics we will be covering within each area over the Autumn Term.



English

Phonics and reading

The children will have a daily phonics lesson which will include reading and spelling words with a new sound as well as revising sounds already taught. This is followed by a reading lesson that is focused on comprehension as well as decoding words with sounds they have learned (green words) and words that they have to learn because they are not decodable (red words).

Handwriting

Correct letter formation is a key focus in Year 1 and once the children are all able to form letters correctly, we will then start to look at the size and position of each letter. The Read, Write Inc. scheme that we use gives each letter a mnemonic device to help children remember how to form them. This link can help as a guide for correct formation.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEZhrFZlv6caOglgflHW-Ug>

Writing

The children will have a range of contexts through which to practise writing, using a wide range of both familiar and new high-quality picture books. Initially, the children will be looking at writing words in lists or as labels for a picture or photograph. They will learn and practise how to write sentences to caption an image, with finger spaces and full stops. They will use sound mats to help them apply their phonic knowledge and start to learn the Year 1 common exception words by heart. The children will learn to retell narratives and to think of sentences to match with the beginning, middle and end of a story.

Mathematics

This term the children will learn about place value to 10 and then 20, addition and subtraction and geometry.

- Practise counting forwards and backwards
- Say the number that is one more or one less than a given number
- Compare and order numbers using $<$, $>$, or $=$
- Recognising, naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes

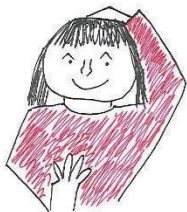
Addition

Using Place Value

Add 10 to any given 2-digit number e.g. knowing $45+1$ or $45+10$ without counting on in ones

Add by putting the larger number first

$$23+10$$

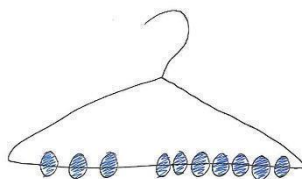


Counting on

Count on in ones from a given 2-digit number

Count on in tens from any given 2-digit number

Add two single-digit numbers



Using number facts

'story of' 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, e.g. $7=7+0$ or $6+1$ or $5+2$

Number bonds to 10, e.g. $5+5$, $6+4$, $7+3$, $8+2$, $9+1$,

Add three single-digit numbers spotting doubles or

Use patterns in number facts to add single-digit numbers to two-digit numbers, e.g. $4+3$ to work out $24+3$

or $4+3$

$10+0$

pairs to 10

Subtraction

Using Place Value

Subtract 10 from any given 2-digit number e.g. knowing $33-1$ or $33-10$ without counting back

Subtract one single-digit number from another

Taking away

Count back in ones from a given 2-digit number, e.g. $11-3=$ or $15-4=$

Count back in tens from any given 2-digit number, e.g. $53-20$ as 53, 43, .

$$33-10$$

1	2	3	4	5
11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25
31	32	33	34	35
41	42	43	44	45

Using number facts

'story of' 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9

Number bonds to 10

Use number facts to subtract single-digit numbers from two-digit numbers, e.g. $7-2$ to work out $27-2$

Science



The Science topic covered this term is Animals, including Humans. In the first half term, the learning will be focused on our bodies, how people grow and change, and our senses. The children will be making observations, conducting simple experiments and increasing their knowledge.

The second half term of teaching will focus on the weather and seasons. We will focus on Autumn for the first half and Winter for the second half. We will explore Spring and Summer later in the school year.

Humanities

The first topic this term is a geography topic based on our local area. The children will be looking at maps on different scales from a bird's eye view of a classroom, the school and its grounds and the area around school. The children will learn to use simple compass directions and directional language.

Physical Education

The children will be completing a variety of exercises and gymnastic routines that will enable them to have more self-awareness of their body and their surroundings. When learning outside, the children will be focussing on learning and practising the basic skills of throwing and catching, developing these skills to play games.



Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

This term in PSHE, we will be using a variety of stories to discuss right and wrong choices in addition to knowing what a secret is. We will be learning the importance of keeping ourselves safe and what to do if we are worried about ourselves or others. After half term, we will be focusing on how to share our opinions, what makes a good friendship and how to play together appropriately and cooperatively.

Art and Design & Technology

In art we will be learning about drawing and studying the work of sketch artist Jason Gathorne-Hardy. After half term we will be planning and making our own Christmas stockings.

Computing

The children will begin the year with programming; using beebots to plan a simple sequence of commands and debug any problems that arise. We will then move onto learning basic computer skills such as logging on and off, typing and using a trackpad.

Music

Music will be taught each week, exploring the importance of music around the world as well as learning the key musical skills of listening, composing and performing. The children will also be learning about different composers through our 'Composer of the Fortnight' series and their place in history.

Spanish

Spanish will be taught once a week over the term. The children will be building their cultural awareness of Spain and beginning to learn more about the country. Children will be learning about places in a town.

Home Learning

Each week the children will bring home 3 types of books:

1. Every Friday your child will bring the book they have read in school that week home over the weekend to show off how well they can read it. **These books must be returned to school on Monday morning.**
2. Your child will also bring home a reading book which can be changed each day in school or as often as needed. At this stage re-reading books can be helpful for developing fluency and comprehension.
3. Finally, your child will have the opportunity to borrow a library book each week.

Star of the Week

Each week, I will be choosing one or two children to be the star (or stars) of the week. This is based on our school's DARE values:

- **Determination**
- **Aspiration**
- **Respect**
- **Enthusiasm**

The children will also be able to collect DARE points for demonstrating these values during the school day – these count individually as well as for their house.



























I am very much looking forward to sharing a fun and enjoyable learning journey with the children this year and also working in a supportive partnership with you.

Please do not hesitate to come and ask me any questions, the door is always open.

Kind regards,

Miss J Wetherell, Year 1 Class Teacher

Letter formation mnemonics

<p>a</p>  <p>Around the apple and down the leaf.</p>	<p>b</p>  <p>Down the laces to the heel and around the toe.</p>	<p>c</p>  <p>Curl around the caterpillar.</p>	<p>d</p>  <p>Around the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck & down to his toes.</p>	<p>e</p>  <p>Lift off the top and scoop out the egg.</p>	<p>f</p>  <p>Down the stem and draw the leaves.</p>
<p>g</p>  <p>Around the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.</p>	<p>h</p>  <p>Down the head, to his hooves and over his back.</p>	<p>i</p>  <p>Down the body and dot for the head.</p>	<p>j</p>  <p>Down his body, curl, dot for his head.</p>	<p>k</p>  <p>Down the kangaroo's body tail and leg.</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>Down the long leg.</p>
<p>m</p>  <p>Down Maisie, mountain, mountain.</p>	<p>n</p>  <p>Down Nobby and over his net.</p>	<p>o</p>  <p>All around the orange.</p>	<p>p</p>  <p>Down the pirates plait and around his face.</p>	<p>qu</p>  <p>Round her head, up past her earring, down her hair, and flick.</p>	<p>r</p>  <p>Down the robots back and curl over his arm.</p>
<p>s</p>  <p>Slither down the snake.</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>Down the tower, across the tower.</p>	<p>u</p>  <p>Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle.</p>	<p>v</p>  <p>Down a wing, up a wing.</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>Down, up, down, up.</p>	<p>x</p>  <p>Down the arm and leg, repeat the other side.</p>
<p>y</p>  <p>Down a horn, up a horn and under head.</p>	<p>z</p>  <p>Zig-zag-zig.</p>				

Year 1 Common Exception Words

These are the words that children are taught to read and spell by the end of Year 1, they have been organised into manageable groups on the table below.

a	is	said	be	no	put
ask	his	says	he	go	push
	has	the	me	so	pull
are		they	she		full
our		there	we	of	one
	was	here		love	once
do	were	I	by	come	school
to	where	you	my	some	friend
today	want	your			house