

# Year 1 Overview for Parents

## 2014-15



**Introduction:** This overview is to help parents to understand what the children will be learning while they are in Year 1. On this page is the general timetable for the class: the following page gives an overview of the learning going on in each half term ‘unit’.

Our curriculum is built on exciting ideas: each half term we will be immersing ourselves in an idea, connecting skills in literacy, numeracy, science and computing as well as becoming familiar with artwork, music and the lives of interesting people who have a connection to the ideas we are exploring. The following page gives an overview of the themes for year 1. Our curriculum is dynamic, so during the year we may change elements in response to new opportunities.

**Core skills:** Our literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy (maths) curriculum aims to help children develop a range of skills over the year. In maths this includes continual development of areas such as number, data, shape, space and measure. The descriptions below give some specific aspects of this that we will be focusing on at various points during the year.

**Year 1 Timetable:** This is a summary timetable, showing the normal organisation of learning in Year 1. The timetable is flexible and is subject of change during the year.

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thursday	Friday
9am	Phonics/lvrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics/lvrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics/lvrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics/lvrit <i>split then swap</i>	Numeracy
10:45	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy
PM	Jewish Studies	Numeracy	ICT	Numeracy	Theme
	PE/ Numeracy <i>Split then swap</i>	Guided group sessions Assembly	PE/ Numeracy <i>Split then swap</i>	Theme	Kabbalat Shabbat

Reading books are normally changed at the beginning of the week, but please ensure that your child brings their reading book into school every day, as we hear children read on different days.

### ***Supporting your child's learning in Year 1:***

- A key way to support your child's learning is by reading with, and to them, every day. Focus on making reading fun as well as practicing letters and word recognition by encouraging them to read to you. Take them to local libraries to explore and find new books!
- Taking your child to visit exciting places of learning, such as the Science Museum, the Greenwich Observatory, or the Natural History Museum can give them an opportunity to share their learning with you and to further embed the things they have explored in school.
- Support your child's growing mathematical understanding by helping them to practice counting in groups, estimating and creating number bonds to 10, 20 and 100.
- Involve them in cookery, gardening and other areas of home life in order to help them practice their developing skills in estimating, weighing and measuring.
- Practice reciting and ordering the days of the week, months of the year and reinforcing their general knowledge on days, hours, minutes and seconds.
- Have fun with floating and sinking experiments, light and dark.
- During the year we will be exposing children to the lives of ‘interesting people’. You can further stimulate their interest and understanding by researching these individuals, in encyclopaedias and online.

## Curriculum themes for Year 1

<p><b>September-October: Water</b></p> <p>We will understand the importance of water for society, learning how to save water, finding out about animals that live in water and the names of some important rivers in the world. Our topic lessons will explore what lives in water as well as investigating floating and sinking. We will find out about the lives of some interesting people including Jacques Cousteau and Monet, to inspire our thinking. In addition, we will learn about deserts, glaciers and tundra. Our Jewish learning will focus on water in Judaism and in Israel, including the celebration and traditions of <i>Sukkot</i>.</p>	<p><b>November-December: Time</b></p> <p>We will be learning to tell and read the time, how to create our own clocks, famous clocks around our world and how to read and follow timetables. Our topic lessons will explore the purposes of clocks, as well as how we can read and tell the time. We will explore the lives of some interesting people including Da Vinci, Salvador Dali and the fastest athlete; Roger Bannister, who ran a mile in four minutes, to inspire our thinking as well as use for a focus for using a stop-watch to time one another. In addition, we will be immersing ourselves in learning about the science of lightness and darkness and where in the world the times are different to ours. Our Jewish learning will focus on the different festivals of light celebrated around our world, Hanukah and the story of Creation.</p>
<p><b>January-February: Heroes</b></p> <p>We will delve into what makes an effective hero, who are the inspirational heroes in our society, and create our own heroic characters. During our topic lessons we will learn about heroic people, their characteristics and how we can aspire to be heroes. We will explore the lives of some interesting people including Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Benjamin Franklin and Phillip Riddell. Using these people as our inspiration, the children will create, design and make their own hero and write about their characters in a character profile. Our Jewish learning will focus on Queen Esther, heroine of the Purim story and we will learn about being Earth heroes, taking responsibility to care for our environment.</p>	<p><b>March-April: Our bodies</b></p> <p>Children will learn about the different bones in our skeletons and will create their own skeletons. We will encounter the lives of doctors and nurses, finding out about what keeps us as healthy. We will explore the lives of some interesting people including Mary Seacole and paralympian Thomas Aggar. We will also explore the life of the Leonardo Da Vinci, linked to our art objectives. We will create games about medicine and find out how to cook healthy foods. Our Jewish Studies lessons will focus on biblical stories relating to health and disability.</p>
<p><b>April-May: Books and scrolls</b></p> <p>We will be exploring the concept and purpose of rule books, including the ten commandments, the Torah along with the books and scrolls of other religious traditions and cultures including the Quran, and Hindu Vedas to identify the similarities and differences with the rules in all of our religions. We will be grappling with the idea of why rules in our society are needed and understanding how laws are made in England. With this in mind, we will be identifying the variations in languages and will compare and contrast versions of the same story from different cultures. We will explore a variety of different interesting people associated with books and scrolls, including Yehuda HaNasi, Johannes Guttenberg and William Caxton. In addition, will understand the link from tablets to scrolls to book to e-books/texts as well as the importance of rules in society.</p>	<p><b>June-July:</b> <i>Pupil led topic</i></p> <p><i>This half term will be a class- chosen topic. The children will be guided and supported to include a variety of mathematical, literacy, science, arts, humanities and ICT skills within this topic.</i></p>