

Year 1 Explorers Newsletter

Term 2 • 2026 to 2027



Hello Year 1 families!

What a wonderful first term! Badgers, Foxes and Moles have grown in confidence, independence and friendships. We are proud of their enthusiasm and the way they have embraced life in Year 1.

Looking back at our first term

The children have been busy exploring, creating and learning outdoors. They took part in Bikeability and enjoyed our Downs trip, giving them opportunities to develop new skills and discover more about the world around them.

Every Tuesday, we have spent time outside for science: planting, caring for the animals and spotting signs of autumn. We have investigated different trees and plants, including ivy, holly and sycamore, and noticed how our surroundings change with the seasons.

In design and technology, the children designed and made blankets for their own Stick Men, thinking carefully about how to keep them warm. Thank you also to everyone who joined our parent phonics drop-in. It was lovely to share how we teach reading and how you can help at home.

Our next adventure is Explorers

This term, we will become geographers, investigate Eastbourne and use natural materials to create artwork. Our story adventures will inspire writing, and we will enjoy plenty of singing and creativity as Christmas approaches!

Our big questions: What can we discover about the world around us? How can we explore and represent the places where we live?

Woodland Wonder Wednesdays

Next term, it is Year 1's turn for Woodland Wonder Wednesdays! Each class will spend two days in the woods, exploring, developing forest school skills and enjoying activities with the fire lit under adult supervision.

November sessions will follow a Stick Man Adventure, while December brings a Gruffalo Adventure. Each day, children will take part in half-class groups, with one group attending in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Morning sessions include a snack and drink.

Children will be kitted out in The Nest, with full overalls and wellies. The children go out in all weathers. Please continue to send a coat for the rest of the school day.

Session dates across Year 1: 11, 18 and 25 November; 2, 9 and 16 December. Each class attends two of these dates; class dates will be shared separately on dojo.

Our learning this term

Area	What the children will learn
English	Our main story is Jim and the Beanstalk. We will explore characters and settings, develop descriptive vocabulary and write our own versions. Later, we will write instructions using clear steps and action words.
Maths	We will count, compare and represent numbers to 20, exploring tens and ones with objects, pictures and tens frames. We will recognise coins, practise simple buying activities and develop subtraction skills within 10.
Reading and phonics	Daily phonics and regular reading will build accurate blending, quick recognition of sounds and increasing fluency. We will talk about stories and develop our understanding of what we read.
Geography	We will locate Eastbourne on a map of the UK, explore our local area and identify human and physical features. Comparing photographs will help us discover how places have changed over time.
Art	Inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, we will explore colour, shape, texture and pattern using natural materials. Children will create arrangements and sculptures, including circular patterns, and photograph their work.
Religious education	Through the parable of the Lost Son, we will explore what Christians believe God is like and consider kindness, forgiveness and how beliefs influence people's lives.
Music	We will use our voices expressively through songs, chants and rhymes, listen carefully to music and practise songs for our Christmas assemblies.
Physical education	Our dance unit will explore weather and pirate themes. Children will move to counts of eight, explore pathways and create and perform short movement sequences.
Life skills and online safety	We will explore kindness, differences, bullying and trusted adults. Children will learn about road and railway safety, people who help us, getting help in an emergency, online bullying and caring for their teeth.

Helping your child at home

- Read together every day and record it in the reading diary. Re-reading familiar books builds fluency. Reading at least three times a week earns five Dojo points.
- Practise phonics little and often. Encourage your child to spot familiar sounds and blend words.
- Count forwards and backwards to 20, find one more or one less, and play shops with small amounts of money.
- Be local explorers! Notice natural and human-made features around Eastbourne, or arrange fallen leaves, sticks and stones into patterns. Send any photos you take of the children on dojo so we can share with the class.

Christmas in Year 1

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our class Christmas assemblies. The children will share their singing and celebrate the festive season together. Please check your child's class date below; further arrangements will be shared through ClassDojo. It will just be a Christmas jumper for these shows, and we make a Christmas crown in class too.

There will also be the Pashley Christmas Fair, Stir the Pudding and Christmas dinner to look forward to. It promises to be a busy and exciting end to the term!

Diary dates for Term 2

Date	Event
Monday 2 November	INSET day — school closed to children
Tuesday 3 November	First day of Term 2
3 and 5 November	Parents' evenings- please book asap if you haven't yet via Arbor
Thursday 19 November	Ladybirds closed for staff twilight training
Monday 7 December • 2.15pm	Foxes Christmas parent assembly
Tuesday 8 December • 2.15pm	Badgers Christmas parent assembly
Thursday 10 December • 2.15pm	Moles Christmas parent assembly
Saturday 12 December • 11am–2pm	Pashley Christmas Fair
Wednesday 16 December	Stir the Pudding and Christmas dinner
Friday 18 December	Last day of Term 2
Monday 4 January	INSET day — school closed to children
Tuesday 5 January	First day of Term 3

A few useful reminders

Reading books Please send reading books and diaries into school each day in your child's bookbag.

PE on Fridays Please make sure children come to school wearing their PE kit.

Outdoor learning Please send a warm, waterproof coat each day and make sure clothing is clearly named.

Contact ClassDojo is the quickest way to share routine messages with your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a term full of exploration, discovery and festive celebrations!

The Year 1 Team