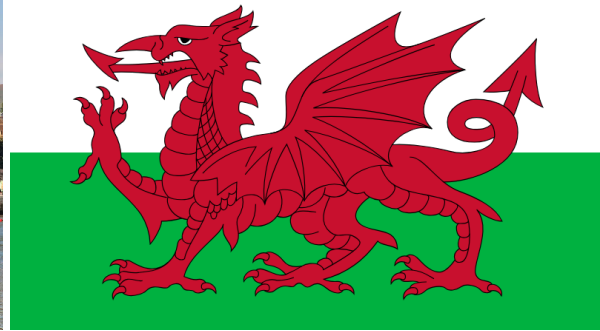




Welcome to Year 1: Wales Class

Autumn Term 2026

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely summer break and feel refreshed and ready for the new academic year. It has been so lovely to have the children back in school and to begin our learning together. In Year 1, children leave the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and begin their journey through the National Curriculum.

In Year 1, the learning environment changes slightly as children move from Reception into a whole-class approach to learning. Children will spend more time learning together as a class, which they will already be familiar with from Reception. In Year 1, we ensure that learning is always hands-on and engaging, and children have regular opportunities for movement, practical learning, play and breaks throughout the day. This helps children to develop their independence while supporting them as they adjust to the routines and expectations of Year 1.

Phonics and Reading: In Year 1, children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons using the Bug Club scheme. Your child will be given a fully decodable book that is closely matched to their current reading ability and the phonemes they are learning in school. Please aim to listen to your child read five times a week. This only needs to take 5–10 minutes, but regular practice makes a huge difference to their confidence, fluency and progress! Please send your child's book into school each day. There will be two boxes in the classroom: one labelled 'Book Needs Changing' and one labelled 'Book Does Not Need Changing'. The children will learn to place their bookbags in the appropriate box each morning, helping us to ensure that books are changed regularly. It is beneficial for children to read the same multiple times, as repeated reading helps to build fluency and allows them to embed their understanding of new phonemes before moving on to a new book. Alongside their decodable book, we will also send home a non-decodable book for you to share and enjoy together. Fostering a love of reading is an important part of your child's development, so please encourage them to explore books beyond their school reading book too. Visits to the library, sharing stories together, or finding books, comics and magazines that spark their interests are all wonderful ways to develop their reading.

English: We will begin our writing by looking at the book 'The Naughty Bus' By Jan and Jerry Oke, focusing on using phonic knowledge to write simple sentences. In our reading lessons we will use 'The Colour Monster' by

Anna Llenas and 'Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion' by Alex T Smith to help us develop our comprehension skills.

Maths: Our maths focus this term will be number and place value, addition and subtraction within 10 and geometry. Children will be given lots of opportunities to use concrete resources to support their learning. We will also have daily 'Number Sense' sessions which are designed to help the children develop fluency of number facts.

Science: This term's topic is 'Animals, including Humans'. We will be naming different parts of the body and thinking about their uses. We will mainly be focussing on the 5 senses and the parts of our body linked to these.

Geography: This term we will begin with a topic called 'What is it like there?'. We will use aerial photographs to look at local features and locate our school. The children will learn to create simple maps of the classroom and school and use these to follow simple routes.

History: After half term, we will start a topic called 'How am I making History?' where children will learn about celebrating special events and what life was like for children in the past.

Art / Design and Technology: This half term we will be learning about painting and mixed media, the children will use these skills to create a plate inspired by Clarice Cliff. Then in DT, the children will be learning how to make basic stitches and we will be designing and making our own hand puppets.

RE: We will be looking at the concept of 'Celebrations' through the festival of Harvest and then 'Special Journeys' linked to the Christmas story.

H.P.E: Our PE sessions will be on Thursday and Friday each week. Please make sure your child comes into school in the correct PE kit with suitable footwear and warm clothing for outside PE. In order to make the lessons safe and accessible for all, children should not be wearing any jewellery for PE. Your child should be able to remove piercings themselves, tape is not sufficient protection and should not be used to cover earrings.

Homework: Homework will consist of regular reading. As we move through the year we may also send home short activities for your child to complete linked to the Year 1 retrieval facts in Maths and learning to spell our tricky words in English.

Each day your child needs to bring a water bottle (please ensure this contains just water and not juice/squash), a piece of fruit, appropriate outdoor clothing for the day (sunhat/ raincoat etc) and their reading book. It is very easy for children to misplace their belongings so please ensure everything is named.

Thank you for your anticipated support,

The Year 1 Team,

Miss Fielder and Mrs Morris