



Year 1 Newsletter

Spring Term 2026



Dear Parents/ Carers,

The children have returned from the Christmas holidays feeling refreshed and enthusiastic about learning this term. The Autumn term was a significant transition for Year 1, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished in such a short time. They have demonstrated resilience, growing confidence, and a real love of learning in both child-initiated and adult-led activities. We look forward to seeing this continue throughout the rest of Year 1.

Subject	
English	<p>Curious Quests - Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Write single clause sentences.- Punctuate sentences using capital letters and full stop.- Letter formation- Begin to convey information and ideas in simple non-narrative forms.- Join two clauses in a sentence using the coordinating conjunction 'and' and 'because'.- Using adjectives to describe and add detail. <p>Phonics:</p> <p>Continue to support your children with their phonics from phase 3 to 5. Alongside this focus on reading and writing tricky words for each phase and year 1 common exception words. We will also start practicing real and pseudo words in preparation for the Phonics Screening Test. Practice papers can be found here: Phonics screening check: 2025 materials - GOV.UK https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2n7ywx</p>
Maths	<p>Focus: Geometry, Measure and Number to 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Geometry - Names and properties of 2D and 2D shape- Measures - Language of comparing length, height, mass and speed- Sequencing events - Days of the week and months of the year- Number to 20 - Adding and subtraction using 'Think 10', equality and balance, part and whole unknown, problem solving and comparison- Measure - Coins and combinations to 20p, ordering and comparing- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s- Measures - Non-standard measures and introducing simple standard measures <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8x8h4j Numbots App (refer to homework for details)</p>
Science	<p>Animals Including Humans - All About Animals - This is the second part of two units. Children will learn to identify and name a variety of common animals. Identify which are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, and learn how to compare and group a variety of different types of animals.</p> <p>Everyday Materials 2 - This is the second part of two units. Children will learn to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. They will learn how to identify and name a variety of everyday materials, describe their properties and also compare and group them together.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zx3trmn</p>
History	<p>How have toys changed? - In this unit, pupils will talk about their favourite toy using</p>

	<p>language related to the past and ask questions about toys from earlier times. They will compare toys from the past and present, sequence artefacts from different periods, and identify changes between teddy bears today and those from 100 years ago. Pupils will also describe how toys have changed over time.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbqcmcbk</p>
Geography	<p>What is the weather like in the UK? - In this unit, pupils will learn to name and locate the four countries of the UK and identify the country they live in. They will explore the four seasons, recognise the current season, and describe seasonal changes and daily weather patterns. Pupils will also learn about the four compass directions, understand that a compass arrow points north, and use directional language to describe locations, as well as suggest suitable clothing and activities for each season.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zqs2vj6</p>
Computing	<p>Technology around us - Learners will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. Learners will also consider how to use technology responsibly and who to ask for help if they see any content or comments online that make them feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>Programming - Moving a Robot - Learners will be introduced to early programming concepts. Learners will explore using individual commands, both with other learners and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each command for the floor robot does, and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. The unit is paced to ensure time is spent on all aspects of programming, and builds knowledge in a structured manner. Learners are also introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zyhbwmn</p>
Art	<p>Sculpture and 3D paper play - This unit introduces pupils to paper-based 3D art forms, focusing on techniques like rolling paper tubes, shaping paper strips, and constructing imaginative sculptures. Children develop skills in creating 3D structures and applying painting skills in three-dimensional art, enhancing their understanding of form and construction.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmyvcxs</p>
DT	<p>Cooking and Nutrition - Smoothies - In this unit, children will be preparing foods by cutting and juicing and selecting fruits and vegetables to create a smoothie to meet a design brief.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9mwtcw</p>
PE	<p>As in all PE units, pupils develop physical, social, emotional and thinking whole child objectives.</p> <p>Target Games - In this unit, the children will learn about different throwing skills as well as perseverance and how to work well as a team.</p> <p>Gymnastics - (Spring 1 and 2) In this unit, children will explore and develop basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using low apparatus. They will learn basic skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling individually and in combination to create movement sequences.</p> <p>Invasion Games - Invasion games are games where there are two teams and two goals. Teams try to score in the opposition's goal. In this unit, children will develop an understanding of attacking and defending and what being 'in possession' means. They will develop skills of sending and receiving with both hands and feet.</p>
Music	<p>Musical Conversations - Music is full of conversations between instruments (and/or voices). Ideas are often passed back and forth, copied, and developed. This unit describes how to create musical conversations with your children. Pupils will invent and compose short pieces based around question-and-answer interactions/dialogue. They will also learn to take turns playing, lead and follow, read a 'score', and create their own simple graphic</p>

	<p>scores.</p> <p>Who stole my chickens and my hens? - This unit is built around a fun song with easy to pick up lyrics and a lively melody. The song provides plenty of opportunities to practise beat work, rests, and explore the 'skipty' (dotted quaver-semiquaver) rhythm. As well as learning the song activities include learning a simple clapping game that can be played in pairs, creating body percussion patterns, and composing new lyrics.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7tnvcw https://www.youtube.com/user/SingingHandsUK</p>
RE	<p>Judaism - Unit 9 - Who is Jewish and how do they live? - Within this unit, children will learn about Jewish worldviews and ways of life. They will learn about texts from the Torah and their importance for Jewish people today. They will find out about the mezuzah and the Shema prayer and what they mean for believers. Later in the unit, pupils will find out about Shabbat and Chanukah, discussing why Jewish people mark these times, what they learn from stories found in the Torah and why they are important today.</p> <p>Christianity - Unit 10 - What do Christians believe God is like? - Within this unit, children find out what parables are, and that Christians believe these stories were told by Jesus to teach his followers about God. They learn about the parable of the Lost Son and what this story teaches many Christians about God, including God being loving and forgiving. Pupils think carefully about what it means for Christians to ask for forgiveness from God and the promise that people will be welcomed back into God's family. They also learn the story of Jonah and the Big Fish and find out about how many Christians put their beliefs into practice through worship.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2yxb7h</p>
RSHE	<p>Friendship - Within this unit, children will learn how to be a good friend, be able to recognise kind and thoughtful behaviours, understand the importance of caring for other people's feelings and be able to see situations from others points of view.</p> <p>Healthy Eating - In this unit, children will be learning about different ways to stay healthy, including exercise and the food we eat.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zst3g7h</p>
French	<p>Transport - The children will learn the names of transport in French.</p>

Reading

We will continue to change your child's book on Friday's. However, please make sure your child brings their reading folder to school every day. Some books may be repeated to support your child's fluency in their reading. **Please make sure you read with your child at least three or four times a week and write in their reading records so we can see they have read. Reading at home is very beneficial for your child's progress.**

Home Learning

Home learning will be sent every Monday on Google Classroom.

Thank you for your continued support this term. As always, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the year 1 email address

year1@homerswood.herts.sch.uk

Kind Regards,

Mrs Penny, Mrs Tollervey and Mrs Bate