



Year 1



Autumn Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have settled into Year 1 excellently so far. It has been wonderful to see so many children entering the classroom with smiling faces, ready to learn! We have just started to incorporate more lessons into our daily timetable and the children have managed really well. Year 1 is one of the trickiest transitions for children so we have been really impressed by how they have been getting on.

The children will be continuing their journey along the Homerswood Pathway Curriculum, which encourages children to grow, be curious and discover.

The table below shows some of the learning we will be doing in Year 1 as well as some websites to help you to support your child from home.

Subject	Topics covered and how to support your child.
English	Focus: Using Capital Letters, Full Stops and Finger Spaces. Writing single clause sentences. Being able to spell some common exception words. Join two clauses with simple conjunctions. Phonics: Our focus for the first term in Year 1 is on Phase 3 phonics so regular practice at home with Phase 3 would be helpful. Practicing writing and spelling tricky words and the Year 1 common exception words would also be very useful. Phonics Play has lots of games the children can play to practice their phonics. www.phonicsplay.co.uk
Maths	Focus: Geometry- Position Numbers to 10 Numbers to 20 Number formation https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/teacher https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zjxhfg8
Science	Focus: Animals including Humans: All about me In this topic, the children will learn about the basic parts of the human body and explore their five senses. Focus: Exploring Everyday Materials 1 In this topic, the children will learn how to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. They will also be identifying different types of materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass, water and rock. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6svr82

History	Focus: How am I making history? In this topic, the children will order photos on a timeline, share and place a memory, and explain why memories are special. Name yearly celebrations, ways to celebrate birthdays, explore childhoods in the past, compare past and present childhoods, add items to a time capsule, and use key words to compare time periods. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zc9s6g8
Geography	Focus: What is it like here? In this topic, the children will be learning about where they live. The children will develop locational knowledge based on the view from the school and local areas. It would be beneficial for the children to talk about what they can see on their journey to school. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqj3n9q/articles/zjd66v4 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqj3n9q/articles/z6wrcqt
Computing	Focus: Exploring chromebooks Computing Systems and Networks - Technology Around Us - Learners will explore how technology supports everyday life, build confidence using keyboards and mice, and begin learning about computer components. They will also learn how to use technology safely and responsibly, including knowing who to talk to if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable. Creating Media - Digital Painting - Learners will use digital painting tools to create artwork, experiment with colours and shapes, and develop confidence using creative software. They will also learn to evaluate their work and compare digital and traditional art methods.
Art	Focus: Drawing: Exploring line and shape In this unit, children will be exploring line and shape; working and experimenting with different materials through observational and collaborative pieces inspired by artists.
Design and Technology	Focus: Structures: Stable structures In this topic, the children will be exploring the stability of structures and making a stable pencil pot for a specific user.
PE	As in all PE units, pupils develop physical, social, emotional and thinking whole child objectives. Fundamental Skills - Pupils will explore the fundamental skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. They will explore these skills in isolation as well as in combination. Ball Skills - In this unit pupils will explore and develop their fundamental ball skills such as throwing and catching, rolling and dribbling with both hands and feet. They will look to perform these skills with increasing control and accuracy using co-

	ordination and balance. Pupils will have the opportunity to work independently, and collaboratively in pairs and small groups. Striking and Fielding Games - In this unit, pupils develop their understanding of the principles of defending (fielding) and attacking (batting) for striking and fielding games. They use and develop skills such as throwing and catching, tracking a ball and striking a ball. Sending and Receiving - In this unit pupils develop their sending and receiving skills including throwing and catching, rolling, kicking, tracking and stopping a ball. Pupils will be given opportunities to work with a range of different sized balls. They will apply their skills individually, in pairs and in small groups and begin to organise and self-manage their own activities. They will understand the importance of abiding by the rules to keep themselves and others safe.
Music	Focus: Colonel Hathi's March Menu Song
RE	Focus: Christianity In this topic, the children will be learning about Christianity and developing their enquiry skills. Our enquiry questions are 'Who do Christians say made the world?' and 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'. www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdykjsx
RSHE	Focus: Keeping and Staying Safe Keeping and Staying Healthy Relationships

PE Kits

We will be having PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on these days.

Reading Folder

Reading folders should come into school every day. Your child's book will be changed when the book has been read in school and your child shows good comprehension of the story. Please ensure that you read with your child every day and leave a small comment in their reading record. Books will be changed every Friday.

Home Learning

Home learning will be sent every Monday on Google Classroom.

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 Mills and Miss Allen