



St Nicholas Class

Year 1

Autumn Term 2026

Parent information Booklet

St. Nicholas is the Patron Saint of Children. He is commonly identified with Santa Claus due to his reputation for generosity, secret gift-giving and his kindness to children.

Autumn Term Learning Journeys



Our first Learning Journey is called 'Behind the Castle Walls'. We will look at how castles have been built; learn about some medieval history based on Castles and look at some fairy tales. To start our Learning Journey, we will be going on a very exciting class trip to Bodiam Castle. Then at the end of the topic, the children will take part in a 'Medieval Banquet' in the classroom. Our second Learning Journey is based on 'Celebrations'. The children will learn about Bonfire Night, and the Christmas Story in depth. We will also look at some other celebrations from different cultures.

Religious Education (R.E.) (See separate information sheet attached)

In Year 1 we follow the Religious Education Directory scheme 'To know You more clearly'. This Autumn term our topics in Year 1 will be 'Creation and Covenant' and 'Prophecy and Promise'. In our first topics, pupils will consider how the world exists and how all that is came to be. They will learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, who Christians call Father, and that this belief is found in Scripture and the prayers of the Catholic Church.

English

The children will engage in activities based on our Learning Journeys which encourage them to explore different stories, poems and information books. These activities will help to develop both their reading and writing skills.



In Year 1 the children will have a daily phonics session which is delivered through the Twinkl Phonics scheme. These sessions will build on what they have already learnt in Reception and then focus on developing the children's ability to read unfamiliar words independently.

The children will also be involved in writing activities on a daily basis, and they will practise forming their letters correctly in their handwriting books several times a week. At the moment the children are simply learning to form their letters. As we progress through the year the children will learn to write their letters using the appropriate 'lead-ins' and 'lead-outs' which will enable them to learn how to join their handwriting towards the end of the year.

Mathematics



This year we will be using the White Rose Maths scheme. The first term we will work in steps exploring concepts such as sorting objects, counting objects from a larger group, recognising numbers as words and counting 1 more and 1 less.

We then move on in the Autumn 2 term, to looking at Addition and Subtraction (within 10) and then Geometry: Shapes.

Science

In our Science lessons this term we shall be learning about 'Seasonal Changes'. Through a variety of fun activities, the children will explore how weather and day length affect animals and humans. They will also be encouraged to use their own experiences and the information provided to come to conclusions about how living things adapt to seasonal changes.

We will then explore 'My Body' which will teach the class all about parts of the human body and their functions, as well as the five senses.

Computing



In Year 1 we have 2 computers in the classroom and the children will visit the ICT suite on a regular basis. The scheme we are following is called 'Teach Computing'. Our topics this term are Information Technology Around Us and Digital Painting. We also teach the importance of online safety as an on-going theme throughout our topics.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Our P.E. lessons will focus on Personal Fitness in Autumn 1 and in Autumn 2 we will be looking at the skills used in Gymnastics.

Children will also be encouraged to respond to instruction and understand the need for safety when involved in P.E. lessons. They will learn about the effect that exercise has on their bodies. Our P.E days are Monday and Wednesday.

Music

St Philip's follows a Music Curriculum devised by Music Express. The units have activities suited to each year group and cover a range of styles and genres. The children will have the opportunity to listen to music, perform to music and use their own skills of composition to complement the music.

The children will engage in daily singing, where they will sing familiar songs and also learn some new ones relating to our topics. We will listen to some Medieval music, and use the percussion instruments to create our own Medieval music.



Art and Design / Design and Technology

In Art, children will focus on marking making techniques using pencils, crayons, watercolours and paint and will learn about the artist Paul Klee. In D.T. children will learn to join fabrics together using different methods and design and create a simple hand puppet.

PSHE

St Philip's follows a PSHE Curriculum devised by Ten Ten. During the Autumn term they will explore sessions such as 'I am Unique', 'Girls and Boys', and 'Clean and Healthy (My Body)'. Alongside this, the children will continue to join in with circle times where they will focus on their feelings about moving to a new class, and the experiences they go through on a

daily basis. Later on in the term we will be thinking closely about how we interact with others, and talk about positive ways with dealing with our feelings.

History and Geography

The children will consider changes within their living memory. They will explore the history of castles, the people that used to live in castles and the jobs that were done. They will learn about where castles were built and consider the environment that castles were built in. Later on in the Autumn term they will learn about the great event of the Gunpowder plot and about Guy Fawkes.



Home Reading

Twinkl Rhino Book are swapped every **Friday** (once a week). We ask you to read this book at **least 3 times** to support fluency in reading. The following layout is recommended:

Read 1:	Read 2:	Read 3:
Go through Pages 1-2, recapping key sounds, focus words and tricky words. Challenge: can your child use the focus/tricky words in a sentence? Can they write this sentence down? Key Focus: understanding focus words and tricky words to be able to access the text.	Echo read the book with your child. You could read a page and they repeat it back. You could alternate at reading pages. Key Focus: sounding out and decoding every word. Spotting focus words/tricky words.	Attempt to read the book fluently (not sounding out) and at pace. In this read you can focus on comprehension questions – the back of the book has good questions to check they have understood the story. Key Focus: Fluency in reading and testing comprehension.

Alongside the Rhino Readers book, your child can select a **Browsing Book** from our book corner. This can be changed **every day** if they would like! Browsing Books can be a colour banded book or longer texts to read with an adult. They will be reminded to change these each morning and at the end of the day.

Homework

Each week (on a Friday) the children will be given a simple Writing and Maths task to complete alongside some spellings in their Homework book. The homework book needs to be returned on a Wednesday or Thursday at the latest. Spelling is completed in class on a Friday.

I do hope that this booklet is useful. If you would like any further information on what we are doing in school, please contact the school office via e-mail who will pass on the message.

The Year 1 Team

Mrs Britton (Class Teacher Wed-Fri)

Mrs. Poppy Smith (Teaching Assistant Mon-Fri)

Mrs. Burman (Class Teacher Mon-Tue)