

Year One Thematic Map, Autumn Term 1- 2026

Living in a Material World



Our Theme Based Curriculum

Our themes run for half a term and we try to teach as many subjects as we can through this theme. For Maths, Science, History and Geography, we adopt a blocked and interleaved approach.

Subject	How we teach it	This half term, children will learn
Writing	We teach writing in one week cycles, matching writing cycles to the genre of writing.	Caption Writing- <i>The Three Little Pigs</i>
		Letter writing - <i>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka</i>
		Instructions - <i>Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper</i>
		Information text - <i>A Planet Full of Plastic by Neil Layton</i>
		Character description - <i>The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad</i>
Drama and Oracy opportunities	We try to make learning as creative as possible, ensuring lots of opportunities for talk. Children engage in weekly Philosophy for Children sessions as part of oracy and language development.	Children will: ● use 'Now Press Play', which is an immersive drama experience, linked to our history and science topics. ● Have P4C (Philosophy for Children) sessions that encourage children to discuss and voice their opinions and ideas on a given theme with their classmates.
Key Texts	Children will read high quality texts and these texts will be linked to their learning.	Children will read: ● <i>Clean Up! By Nathan Byran</i> ● <i>Let's Build a House by Mike Lucas</i> ● <i>Everywhere bear by Julia Donaldson</i> ● <i>The Great Paper Caper by Oliver Jeffers</i> ● <i>Wild by Emily Hughes</i> ● <i>Martha Maps It Out by Leigh Hodgkinson</i>

Maths	Children will learn about topics in a blocked and interleaved way, repeating key learning in daily maths meeting sessions and in lesson starters, in order to improve retention of knowledge.	Children will study these topics: Place Value (to 10): ● Sort & Count objects ● Count objects from a larger group ● Represent objects ● Recognise numbers as words ● Count on from any number ● 1 more/1 less ● Count backwards within 10 ● Compare groups by matching ● Compare numbers ● Order objects and numbers. Addition and Subtraction: ● Introduce parts and wholes and Part-whole model ● Write number sentences ● Fact families – addition facts ● Number bonds within 10, ● Systematic number bonds within 10 ● Number bonds to 10 ● Addition - add together, add more, addition problems, find a part. ● subtraction – find a part, fact families – the eight facts, take away/cross out, subtraction on a number line.
Skills Builder	In Skills Builder, the children learn about one of the following skills: Listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, adapting, leadership, planning and teamwork. They will learn what each skill means and how to apply it in their daily lives.	During this half term, we will focus on the following skills and skills steps: Listening ● I can listen for at least a short time. ● I remember simple instructions ● I can ask questions if I don't understand.
Humanities	The theme includes content in History, Geography and RE. Whenever possible, we link this to writing. In History and Geography, we follow an interleaved curriculum where we re-revisit previous learning at regular intervals to recap and embed knowledge.	<u>Geography: Local Area</u> Children will learn about: ● To recognise human & physical features in the context of children's own locality. ● To use simple fieldwork & observational skills to study the surrounding environment in the context of children's own locality. ● To use simple maps and create a map using symbols. ● To compare my local area with another place. <u>RE: Islam</u> In RE, we will be exploring the following questions and ideas: ● Who is Muslim and what do they believe? <u>PSHE: Fun Times</u> In PSHE, we will explore the following topics from Islington's 'You, Me, PSHE' scheme of work: ● Which foods are associated with special times in different cultures? ● Which games are played around the world? ● How can we stay safe in the sun?

Science	We follow an interleaved curriculum where we re-visit previous learning at regular intervals to recap and embed knowledge.	<u>Everyday Materials:</u> In this topic, we will explore the following objectives: • What are everyday materials? • What are materials like? • Which materials are waterproof? • Which materials float and which sink?
Art, Design and Technology	We teach Art and DT in an integrated way and often in blocked sessions. We ensure all pupils learn to cook savoury and sweet dishes, developing a range of cookery knowledge and skills over time.	<u>Art:</u> In Art lessons, we will: • Explore different textures by making rubbings. • Create a collage using textured materials. • Halloween inspired decorations. <u>Design and Technology:</u> In DT lessons, we will: • Design a model of a building from the local area. • Construct a stable model using recycled materials. • Learn how papier-mâché can change the surface of a model.
Music	Children learn to perform, compose and appreciate music. We teach lessons through a scheme named Music Express. Additionally, we offer separate instrument tuition.	<u>Music Title:</u> • Our School We will learn the following objectives: • Listening, exploring, composing: Using recorded sounds to inspire composition; interpreting environmental sounds on percussion instruments.
Computing	Children learn to use technology effectively and safely, to enhance their learning experiences. We use a progressive scheme of work created with borough support.	<u>Computing Title:</u> • Digital literacy We will learn the following objectives: • Explain why it is important to respect people while using devices. • Learn 'Pause, breathe, finish up' routine as a self-regulation strategy to transition from technology to face-to-face interactions. <u>Computing Title:</u> • Technology around us We will learn the following objectives: • Identify examples of technology in the classroom and how it helps us. • Identify a computer and its main parts. • Create rules for using technology responsibly.
Cultural Enrichment & Vocational Experience	We include at least one culturally enriching trip each term and organise visitors to the school, to talk about their professions or teach children about the world.	This half term, we will be doing the following: • We will have a visitor from the dental charity Bright Bites on the 20th October, to talk about oral health and demonstrate tooth brushing. We plan to take the children to the locations below. Once we have confirmed the dates, we will let you know: • Local area walk (around Arsenal) • Visit to a local mosque

Vocabulary:

Vocabulary linked to our theme:	Definitions:
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Materials:	Materials are the substances that make up objects, and they can be natural or man-made.
Season:	Each of the four divisions of the year (spring, summer, autumn, and winter) is marked by particular weather patterns and daylight hours, resulting from the earth's changing position with regard to the sun.
Local Area:	The immediate neighborhood or surrounding area of a specific location, like a town or city.
Recycling:	The process of converting waste materials into new, reusable materials and objects.
Feelings:	A natural part of the human experience, encompassing a wide range of emotions and sensations that can be both positive and negative.
Environment:	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives and operates.

Weekly Home Learning:

- Children are given weekly reading books. Please ensure you read with your child every day. Reading journals should be completed by an adult and they will be checked once weekly on a Friday.
- Daily phonics sound and letter formation sheets will be given to children.
- Children are expected to complete a task on Doodle Maths every day. Children should complete enough activities to reach the green zone in Doodle Maths every week: <https://doodlelearning.com/>

Over the course of this half term, we would like you and your child to complete the following **project**:

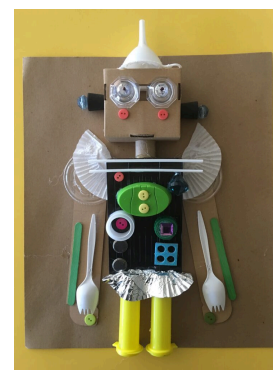
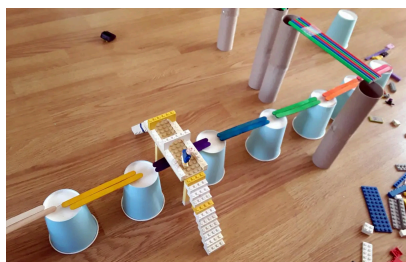
We expect all children to complete a home learning project, linked to the theme. This can be as open ended and ambitious as you like! It does not need to be an arts and crafts topic, or even in English.

Projects should be completed by **Thursday 15th October**.

We invite parents and carers to come to our **Topic Gallery on Thursday 22nd October**.

You can come into the classroom at 3.30pm and the children will show you their projects.

Here are some project ideas (you can use one of these ideas or think of an idea of your own): Projects related to Materials and Local Area.



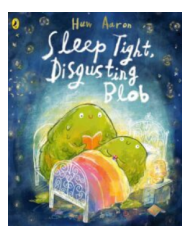
In school, the children will be asked to present their home learning projects to their class. At home, please allow time for the children to practise presenting their home learning projects to you.

Reading recommendations:

We advise our students to borrow and read these books at home:

This is a fantastic list of books for Year 1 children to read:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/year-1/>



If you would like any specific recommendations, please come and speak to me.

