



Termly Curriculum Overview Letter

We are a 'light in the darkness', living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential



St John's Meads CE Primary School
Rowsley Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 7XS

Staff Team	Teachers: Mrs Bettles on Monday & Tuesday Mrs Loaring on Wednesday - Friday Teaching Assistants: Mrs Gallini [am] Mrs Vile [pm]	Class	Year 2 and 3 Pebble Class
Term	I		

Love  Independence  Generosity  Honesty  Teamwork 



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Topic Overview: Woodland Wonders

Big Question: What makes woodlands such special habitats? This term, our learning journey will be centred around **Woodland Wonders**, where children will explore the fascinating world of woodlands and discover why these habitats are so important for wildlife, people and our planet. Through a range of exciting activities across the curriculum, we will investigate local environments, learn about sustainability and develop an appreciation for the natural world around us.

Using our local area as inspiration, children will explore woodland habitats, identify plants and animals that live there, and consider how humans can help protect these precious environments. Through stories, scientific enquiry, geographical fieldwork and creative projects, children will develop their curiosity, observation skills and understanding of the interconnectedness of living things.

Throughout the term, we will be encouraging children to think like explorers, scientists, geographers, historians and designers as they investigate our big question:

What makes woodlands such special habitats?

By the end of the topic, children will understand that woodlands provide food, shelter and homes for a diverse range of plants and animals, support biodiversity, improve our environment and play an important role in helping us live more sustainably.

How Parents Can Help

- Visit a local woodland or park and look for signs of wildlife.
- Discuss the importance of looking after natural environments.
- Encourage your child to identify trees, plants, birds and insects they see outdoors.
- Share books and stories that celebrate nature and the environment.
- Talk about simple ways your family can reduce waste and help protect our planet.

We are looking forward to an exciting term of discovery as we explore the wonders of the woodland together!



To enrich our RE learning, we are arranging a visit either to the church or from the church team to discuss stewardship. Please look out for more information about this soon.

Main Areas of Learning to be covered

Spelling

Year 2

The children will begin by completing the Little Wandle Phase 5 Review programme before beginning the Little Wandle Bridge to Spelling programme.





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Week	Coverage	Tricky Words
Week 1	/ai/ a-e ai ay a eigh ea ey aigh /ee/ y ea ee e ie ey e-e /igh/ igh i-e i y ie /oa/ ow o o-e oa oe ou	people, eye, whole
Week 2	/oo/ /yoo/ oo u u-e ew ue ou ui /air/ air are ear ere /ur/ er ur ir or ear /ow/ ou ow	through, improve, move, prove, shoe, two, who, beautiful, their, parents
Week 3	/or/ or a aw au ore oor al oar our augh aur /s/ ci su /ch/ ch tch ture* /sh/ sh ti ch ssi ci si	thought, sure
Week 4	/j/ j g ge dge /s/ s ss c ce se st sc /v/ ou /e/ ea /i/ y /o/ a /u/ o-o-e /oo/ oul schwa: er a or ar our re	once, again, any, many, friend, busy, pretty, because, laugh**
Week 5	ie /ee/ /igh/ y /ee/ /igh/ /i/ ea /ee/ /e/ /ai/ a /a/ /ai/ /or/	friend

Notes

- The grapheme **ture** makes the /ch/ sound but has a slight schwa 'uh' at the end.
- laugh** is included as a tricky word with an unusual spelling for /a/, but regional pronunciations vary.

Year 3

The children will begin by finishing the final units of the Little Wandle Spelling Programme before starting their No Nonsense Spelling Programme

Weeks 1-3 Little Wandle Spelling

Week	Unit	Spelling Focus	Common Exception Words	Homophones
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I	13	How do I use the possessive apostrophe (singular possession)?	thought, through	whole / hole
2-3	14	When do I swap, drop or double? (-ing, -er, -est, -y, -ed)	Review	blue / blew

Week 4-7 No Nonsense Spelling

Week	Lessons	Learning Focus
Week 4	Lessons 1-4	Year 2 Revision and Prefixes - Revise and practise Year 2 suffixes: -s, -es, -er, -ed, -ing - Revise prefix un- - Teach and practise prefix dis- (disappoint, disagree, disobey) - Apply prefixes un- and dis-
Week 5	Lessons 5-6	Apostrophes and Spelling Strategies - Revise Year 2 apostrophes for contractions - Learn strategies for spelling words from statutory and personal spelling lists
Week 6	Lessons 7-8	Writing Strategies and Rarer GPCs - Strategies at the point of writing: Have a go - Teach rarer GPCs for the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei (vein), eigh (eight), aigh (straight) and ey (they)
Week 7	Lessons 9-10	Rarer GPCs Practice and Assessment - Practise rarer GPCs for the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, aigh and ey - Assess through dictation

English: This term, our English learning will be based around the beautiful story **The Tin Forest** by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson. The story follows an old man who lives in a gloomy and lonely place filled with discarded rubbish. Through hope, determination and imagination, he transforms his surroundings into a wonderful forest full of life and colour. The book provides rich opportunities for children to explore themes of perseverance, dreams and caring for the environment.

What we will be learning

Setting Description Children will explore how authors create atmosphere through descriptive language. We will investigate the contrasting settings in the story, comparing the bleak, gloomy Tin Forest with the vibrant and magical forest that develops later. The children will use expanded noun phrases, powerful adjectives and sensory vocabulary to write their own detailed setting descriptions.

Character Description We will focus on the main character, considering his thoughts, feelings and actions





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throughout the story. Children will learn how to describe characters effectively using evidence from the text and will create their own character profiles using ambitious vocabulary.

Diary Writing The children will write diary entries from the perspective of the old man, imagining his experiences and emotions before and after the transformation of the Tin Forest. They will learn how to write in the first person, use past tense consistently and include thoughts, feelings and reflections to engage the reader.

Through reading, discussion and writing activities, the children will develop their creativity, vocabulary and confidence as writers while exploring this inspiring and imaginative text.

Maths

Weeks 1-4 Place Value

Weeks 5-7 Addition and Subtraction

Year 2

In place value, children will explore number to 100 using concrete resources, place value charts and number lines, before learning to count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s.

In addition and subtraction, children will revisit number bonds to 10 before moving on to fact families to 20 and number bonds to 100. Children will use this knowledge to add and subtract 2-digit numbers.

Year 3

In place value, children will explore number to 100 including representing it with a variety of resources and on number lines. They will learn to compare and order numbers before moving on to learning to count in 50s.

In addition and subtraction, children will revisit number bonds before learning to add and subtract 1s, 10s and 100s in order to add and subtract 3-digit numbers.

Science

This term, our Science learning will focus on **Animals Including Humans**, with a particular emphasis on understanding the importance of nutrition for staying healthy and growing. Children will learn that all animals, including humans, need the right types and amounts of food to survive, grow and stay healthy. We will explore the different food groups and investigate how a balanced diet provides the nutrients our bodies need. The children will discover that different animals have different dietary needs and will compare the diets of humans and other animals.

RE

What do Christians learn from the Creation Story?

Children will revisit the Christian Creation Story before focusing on what God has asked people to do. We will look especially at the role of stewardship and taking care of our world and also exploring the rules that Christians follow because they believe in God.





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Wider Curriculum

This term, our learning will focus on understanding **our local area**, the **United Kingdom**, and the wider world. The children will develop their geographical knowledge and fieldwork skills while also learning about significant individuals who have helped us understand and protect woodlands over time.

Design and Technology - Shell Structures Children will become designers and engineers as they explore **shell structures** and investigate how products can be made stronger, more stable and more appealing. They will learn about the design process from initial ideas through to creating and evaluating a finished product.

Spanish

The children will be focusing on phonetics and will learn the following sounds:

ch – chocolate, j – jirafa, ñ – niña, ll – caballo, rr – perro, ca – casa, ce – cerdo, ci – cinco, co – conejo, cu – cuatro, ga – gato, ge – geografía, gi – girasol, go – goma, gu – gusano, b – beber, v – vaca, cc – diccionario, qu – química, z – zanahoria

Computing

Our focus this term is online safety. The children will learn how to create strong passwords, communicate responsibly online, recognise unreliable information, understand age restrictions, and know how to stay safe and seek help when using the internet.

Dance This term, children will explore **Dance** through creative movement inspired by our topic, **Woodland Wonders**. They will use movement to represent the natural world, woodland animals and changing seasons, developing both their physical skills and creativity.

Creative Movement Children will experiment with a range of movements to express ideas, feelings and stories. They will explore how different actions, shapes and gestures can represent woodland creatures, plants and natural environments.

Performing and Sequencing The children will learn short dance sequences and work collaboratively to create and perform their own dances. They will develop their ability to link movements together smoothly and perform with confidence.

Homework:

We will be sharing any homework set on Dojo. Please ensure that your child reads at least 5 times at home and record it in their reading diaries.





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Ways you can support at home:

White Rose Maths provides free workbooks for each of the blocks we will be covering. You can use these to help the children consolidate their learning.

Maths Year 2 Workbooks

Place Value

<https://assets.whiteroseeducation.com/web-pages/parent-resources/Y2-HL-Autumn-Block-1-Place-value-2020.pdf>

Addition and Subtraction

<https://assets.whiteroseeducation.com/web-pages/parent-resources/Y2-HL-Autumn-Block-2-Addition-and-subtraction-2020.pdf>

Maths Year 3 Workbooks

Place Value

<https://assets.whiteroseeducation.com/web-pages/parent-resources/Y3-HL-Autumn-Block-1-Place-value-2020.pdf>

Addition and Subtraction

<https://assets.whiteroseeducation.com/web-pages/parent-resources/Y3-HL-Autumn-Block-2-Addition-and-subtraction-2020.pdf>

Christian Value

This term, the whole-school value we are focusing on is Love. Through our learning and collective worship, we will encourage children to show love through kindness, respect and care for others. Value Awards are presented at the end of each term to celebrate children who have demonstrated the focus value in their daily lives. Please see our Termly Values Flyer for more information.

