

Year 1 Spring Newsletter

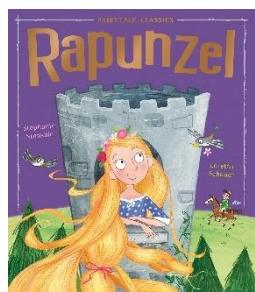
Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

We would like to welcome Year One back to school after their Christmas holiday, we hope you all had a restful and relaxing break ready to start learning again for 2026. Myself and Mrs Sidwell-Brittle would like to take this chance to say that Year One have been amazing so far this academic year, we cannot wait to see what else they can achieve! We are so eager to see the progress that they will make as we start 2026. As always, let's make sure that we are ready, respectful and safe as we return to school for the Spring Term.

English



We are going to start the Spring Term by reading the story Rapunzel. This is an exciting story about a girl who is locked inside a tower by a witch. All she knows are the four walls around her, the witch who has imprisoned her, and the creatures of the forest who visit her and show her kindness.

We will be reading the text and picking apart the structure of the story. At the beginning of our learning journey we will look into each plot point and look into story language. By the end of the unit we will re-write the story of Rapunzel and write our own retelling of the events.

The children's library day this half term is going to be Thursday. Please ensure that the children bring their library book back to school each week so that they can exchange it for another one. It is also very important that the children read their two Read Write Inc books at home each week ready for them to be changed in school each Friday. The children are given a book that they know well and can read fluently, and a matching 'book bag book' as a new story to share with you at home.

Maths



In Year One we have maths two times a day. We do Maths No Problem in the morning and then Mastering Number each afternoon. Mastering Number helps us to gain maths fact fluency and to have a deeper understanding of numbers to 10, and then to 20. We will be learning about odd and even numbers, making numbers to 20 and recalling number facts to 10.

In our Maths No Problem learning this term we will move on from numbers to 10 and we will begin our deeper learning about numbers beyond 10. We will begin the term by looking at numbers to 20 in many ways including: comparing, writing numbers as words, counting amounts and ordering numbers. We will then move on to addition and subtraction within 20 before moving onto both 2D and 3D shapes as well as pattern, length and height.

Curriculum Theme



Our theme in Year One this half term is 'Houses and Homes'. We have already sent home the knowledge organiser for this theme and it tells you all about our learning. There are also home learning projects that we encourage you to have a go at at home. If you bring them in, we can celebrate them in class. We will be focusing on being a historian this half term as we look at different homes from the past and compare them to now. We will learn facts about the Great Fire of London and why it occurred. After this we will learn more about Victorian times and understand how life was different for the rich and the poor. This topic includes a trip to the Black Country Living Museum.

Other subjects at a glance:

Each afternoon we will be teaching a range of other subjects: computing, music, science and PE. In science we are learning about animals including humans. We will be identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will also look at the human body and we will name and label the basic body parts, after this we will focus on each of our senses and what these do for our body.



In computing we are learning about how to use a computer to make a list. We will do this during our unit 'Rocket to the Moon'. We will be able to explain the benefits of making a list on the computer and use a basic range of tools on graphics editing software to design a rocket. To end our unit we will sequence instructions, follow instructions to build a model rocket and input data about our rockets.



In music we are using the Charranga scheme. This half terms focus song is called 'In the Groove.' While doing music, the children will start to learn about rhythm and pulse and how to check which instruments are in a song. We will play games and learn the lyrics to songs and then showcase what we have been learning at the end of the term by performing our song. We will also learn a new skill which is called clap and improvise.

In PE this term we are focusing on two different aspects of physical education, these are: fitness, and net and wall games. In fitness we will be developing our understanding of the benefits of exercise and a healthy lifestyle on our bodies, mood and overall health. In net and wall games we will be practising physical skills such as: throwing, catching, how to hit a ball and how to track a ball.

Useful websites

www.hightersheath.excelsiormat.org

www.ruthmiskin.com

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks

Important Dates for this term

Black Country Living Museum – 12th February.

Final Notices!

PE days are **Thursday** and **Friday**. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on those days. Earrings are to be removed or not to be worn on PE days and long hair needs to be tied back.

Homework – Please make sure that the children read each week and watch the phonics videos that are sent home.

If you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Please phone the school office or email: enquiry@hightersheath.excelsiormat.org

I hope that this term will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding one for everybody in Year One and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for your continued support,

Mrs Cooke and Mrs Sidwell-Brittle