


Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p>This half term your child will be looking at the story of Chicken Licken as a journey tale. Your child will go on the journey of Chicken Licken and look at the features within a journey tale. Through drama and class discussions, they will unpick the story and explore the story line further. Your child will then work to plan and innovate the text to create their very own journey tale. They will be looking at skills of descriptive writing, conjunctions, story openers and editing their writing to ensure they have capital letters and full stops. Once a sentence is complete we will be recognising the importance of reading back your writing in order to check for fluency and inaccuracies.</p>
	<p>Later in the half term we will be looking at non-fiction writing in the form of a recount. Your children will learn how to recall an event in detail and use time connectives including first, next, after that to organise their ideas cohesively.</p>
	<p>You could support by asking your child to tell their very own journey tale at home. They should practise using full sentences, actions and expression in their voice. In order to develop their descriptive language why not ask them to describe objects you see around. What WOW words could they use to describe it?</p>
Writing	<p>Nelson Handwriting Your child is practising with their 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and 'Posture for Writing'. Pupils are practicing writing 2 digraphs that are joined e.g. the 'ng' in sing should be joined.</p> 
	<p>You could support by continuing to practise upper and lower case letters at home, as appropriate. You could also encourage them to write with independence; especially for homework tasks as the expectations for children's independent writing stamina is significantly increasing in Year 1.</p>
Reading	<p>Sounds-Write (Phonics) Your child is practising their skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • segmenting (breaking words apart. e.g. plank is p-l-a-n-k); • blending (putting sounds together to make words. e.g. s-p-e-n-t is spent); and • phoneme manipulation e.g. In 'eat' the <ea> makes the /ee/ sound, while in 'break' it makes the /ae/ sound.
	<p>Books will continue to come home on a Tuesday and Friday. If books are lost there will be £5 fee to be paid at the office.</p>
	<p>Reading This half term your child will begin taking part in a whole class reading. They will focus on decoding words to read them aloud and build their comprehension skills as they discuss the texts. They will consolidate recall skills and develop their inference (ability to read between the lines).</p>
Mathematics	<p>You should support by listening to your child read their reading book every night at home. Encourage them to 'say the sounds and read the word'. Exposure to new words that they have to apply their phonic knowledge to, will also help to keep them on track ahead of their phonics challenge in June. You could also read harder texts with your child which they cannot read for themselves but can discuss with you throughout in order to support their comprehension skills and love for reading.</p>
	<p>This half term your child will be looking at the composition of numbers and the properties of shape. They will focus on partitioning numbers in systematic ways, developing their understanding that even numbers can be partitioned into either two even groups or two odd groups; whilst odd numbers can be partitioned into one odd part and one even part. They will also be investigating, exploring and comparing 2D and 3D shapes.</p>

	<p>You could support your child by identifying and comparing shapes at home. When discussing and exploring, choose more challenging, irregular shapes and encourage your child to use reasoning skills to prove themselves. You could also help by supporting them to practise their number formation, in both numerals and letters.</p>
Core Knowledge	<p>In R.E. your child is learning about Christianity. They will explore stories about the life of Jesus, the Bible and the Christmas story.</p>
	<p>In Science, we will begin our new topic 'Animals and Their Needs'. Your child will learn how to classify common animals based on their features, diet and behaviour. Key language will include: amphibian, reptile, fish, bird, mammal and invertebrate along with herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.</p>
	<p>Excitingly, we will begin our first History topic of the year 'Discovering History'. Children will explore the past, how we learn about the past, the use of different historical sources such as artefacts and why learning about the past is important in today's world. We will also explore family trees and study a key historical figure: Mary Seacole.</p>
	<p>In Spanish, children will continue to verbally explore animal names. They will engage with this through games, music, drama and informal classroom conversations.</p> <p>In Computing, the children will continue to develop an understanding of technology and how it can help them. They will become more familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills, and also start to consider how to use technology responsibly.</p>
	<p>You could support at home by talking to your child about the importance of history. You could look at London in past and present and compare the similarities and differences.</p>
Character & Jigsaw	<p>Character: This half term, your child will be exploring the virtues leadership and teamwork, fairness and service. Pupils will listen to and discuss stories that display these virtues. They will participate in activities that will allow them to put these virtues into practice and develop their understanding of how to apply these into their daily life.</p> <p>Jigsaw: This term the children will be exploring the topic 'Celebrating Differences'. This will celebrate the range of differences we have and help us to see how we are all special and unique people. In this topic we will touch upon bullying and how we can help those feeling sad. In addition, we will learn how to build upon current friendships and make new ones too. Your child will also learn skills of mindfulness and how to find moments of calm. We will also look at regulating our emotions and how to do this.</p>
	<p>You could support by asking your child how they showed empathy today. You could also encourage them to always speak with a confident voice while making eye contact. Please use the language of good and bad choices at home and help the children to reflect on their choices. You could also encourage teamwork in the home environment by encouraging your child to work positively with others.</p>
Art	<p>Your child is continuing to develop a wide range of art and design techniques. This term they are focusing on the use of lines, with pencil, pen, paint and other materials such as string, wood and metal. Pupils will look at a variety of artists work such as: Rembrandt, Miro and Klee. They will look at pieces of art by these artists and discuss the ways in which lines have been used to create different forms. They will develop their own skills, using a variety of materials and discussing the artistic choices they make.</p>
	<p>You could support your child by looking at different images and identifying the lines within them.</p>
Music	<p>Your child will continue to take part in our music scheme Charanga. This half term Year 1 will focus on pulse and rhythm elements of music.</p>
	<p>You could support by asking your child to practice what they have learnt by using a confident signing voice at home.</p>

P.E. and Dance	<p>This term in PE, the children are learning about fundamental activities in sport, focusing on their gross motor skills and foot-eye coordination.</p>
	<p>In addition to this, we are very excited to let you know that the Year 1 children will be having dance lessons this half term. Your child will be focusing on a dance sequence to perform at the Nativity. Within this topic they will explore different movements, sequences, and directions.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child comes into school wearing their full P.E. kit on their PE day. Children will not be getting changed at school until further notice.</p>

General reminder – Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat in school every day so that they can play outside come rain or shine. As we know, the weather in England can change very rapidly! All coats and PE kits must be clearly named.