



Year 1 – Summer 1 - 2026

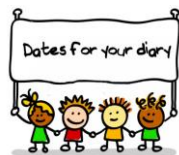
Equality What is Equal?



Welcome to Summer 1 – The start of our final term in Year 1. It might be a short one, but as always it promises to be a busy half term ahead! This newsletter is intended to give you an overview of important dates and key information about the learning opportunities your children will be involved in over the coming weeks. I hope you find it useful.

Dates to remember this half term:

- Children return – Mon 20th April
- Earth Day – Wed 22nd April
- St George's Day – Thurs 23rd April
- Bank Holiday – Mon 4th May
- Last day of term – Fri 23rd May



Notices:

PE Days – Mondays and Tuesdays

All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons. Retainers can be worn in place of earrings. No plaster covers.

Reading Books/Book Bags – to be in school every day.

Homework: In addition to spellings and reading, children can access age appropriate phonics and maths games via school360.

English: Phonics & Reading

Children are grouped according to their next steps and, once again, will begin this half term in their newly assigned groups. For some children this will mean a change of classroom or member of staff; however children are familiar with all KS1 staff and the RWI routines. In phonics sessions children will continue to learn new/review Speed Sounds and how to apply these to reading and spelling. Reading sessions are based on a shared RWI text. This text is usually changed weekly, once a range of tasks and activities have been completed. These tasks enable children to:

- practice focus Speed Sounds
- develop vocabulary and learn the meaning of new words
- develop sight reading of decodable and common tricky words
- enjoy listening to stories read aloud
- join in with adults reading the story and improve reading fluency and expression
- think about what is happening in the story
- find answers to questions within the text
- read with a storyteller's voice
- 'Magpie' words from texts to use in their own writing
- share linked texts and make links between stories, characters and settings.

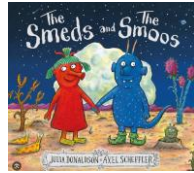
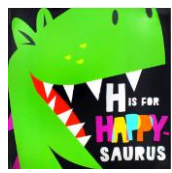
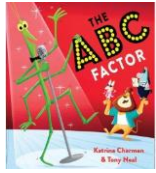
English: Writing

We will continue to focus on improving our writing through developing oracy skills - clear and accurate pronunciation of sounds and words in grammatically accurate sentences to enable the children to more easily spot when their written work does or does not make sense. This will include accurate use of past and present tense. You can help with this by gently correcting errors by modelling the correct pronunciation of words in conversation. Through a variety of activities across the curriculum, children will apply their phonic knowledge and be taught spelling rules to compose lists; captions, labels; an alphabetical list poem; character description; a letter in role as a Smed or a Smoo; questions; a diary entry as Rosa Parks as well as factual sentences about her life.

They will continue to improve their use of capital letters, spaces and punctuation (. ! ?) through proof read and edit sessions. Spelling lessons will focus on different patterns and sounds each week. These are attached to the end of this information sheet and can be used at home alongside the Y1 CEW and HFW.

Letter formation - with some children still needing to master correct letter formation, I am asking for your support with this at home too. Guidance and activities will be sent home soon.

We read stories every day from a range of picture books, often linked to our theme. Some of the texts focused on this half term include:



We also love to share books from home. Please feel free to bring in your favourites!

Maths: Small steps will include...

Measurement – Mass and Volume

Heavier and lighter; Measure and compare mass; Full and empty; Compare volume; Measure and compare capacity

Multiplication and Division

Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s; Grouping and recognising equal groups; Repeated addition; Arrays; Doubles; Grouping and sharing equally.

Fractions (we will begin this unit)

Recognise a half of an object or a shape; Find a half of an object or a shape; Recognise a half of a quantity; Find a half of a quantity; Recognise a quarter of an object or a shape; Find a quarter of an object or a shape; Recognise a quarter of a quantity; Find a quarter of a quantity

Science: Animals including humans

This unit of work will take us through to the end of Year 1. Children will learn to identify and name, describe and compare a variety of common animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals as well as understand that humans are animals too. They will learn about the importance of the foods animals eat and be able to identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. In addition, they will be able to identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.



Computing: Moving a Robot

This unit introduces children to early programming concepts. They will explore using individual commands, both with their peers and as part of a computer program. They will work with BeeBots, identifying what each floor robot command does and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. Children will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.



Username and Passwords - Please continue to practice logging in to (and out of) School360 at home to continue to develop children's independence with this in lessons. Thank you

Art: Sculpture

After completing our DT unit from last half term by making, tasting and evaluating our smoothies we will move on to our paper based sculpting in Art.

Through a series of lessons children will explore and make a range of tube towers and begin to understand how they can be used to create structures before creating 3D drawings applying this knowledge on individual and collaborative pieces.



Music: Charanga – Your Imagination

Following the Charanga scheme, children will continue to develop their singing, playing and composition skills as they learn to play glockenspiels along to a focus song. The song this half term is 'Your Imagination' which will allow children to improvise their own verses too.

Through the listen and appraise sections children will listen to a range of well-known songs including: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from Mary Poppins; Pure Imagination from Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory soundtrack; Daydream Believer by The Monkees and Rainbow Connection from The Muppet Movie.

History: Rosa Parks

It will primarily be through our history work that we will introduce and address the new theme for the summer term: What is equal?

We will start with a simple social experiment where one group of children will be treated differently to their peers (for a short time!) for no other reason than the colour of the dot on their lolly stick. This will prompt a discussion on equality and fairness at an age-appropriate level and set the scene for us to begin learning about segregation, racism and the events in the life of Rosa Parks. We will find out who she was, what happened to her and understand why her experiences lead to changes in attitudes in society and then changes in the law too.

PE: Striking and Fielding Games

Children will learn to roll a ball with accuracy from varying distances and angles. They will begin to understand how to retrieve the ball effectively and when this might be used in a game situation. They will be able to apply their throwing and catching skills to throw accurately to a team member or into a space. Children will learn how to hit and kick a ball, tracking its path to maintain control. Once children are confident, they will apply these skills in competitive team games.



PSHCE: Zones of Regulation

Children continue to develop their understanding of the zones and awareness that it is expected we will experience a variety of emotions across any one day/week in school or at home as well as being more able to identify appropriate self-regulation strategies that work for them both at home and in school.

The **ZONES** of Regulation®

Virtues

Courtesy – at the lunch table and in the playground.

Forgiveness - Thinking about how we show forgiveness to others and understanding that everyone makes mistakes.

Determination - Goals can be achieved if we are determined in our hearts and minds. To think about how we can encourage ourselves and each other to keep going!

RE: Gospel - What is the good news Christians say Jesus brings?

In this unit children will begin to think about what stories from the Gospel mean to Christians, understanding 'Gospel' as 'good news'.

They will begin to recognise that Jesus gives instructions to people about how to behave, such as showing forgiveness and living in peace, and give examples of ways in which Christians follow the teachings from the Bible.

We will conclude the unit by considering whether Jesus' 'good news' is only good news for Christians, or if there are key messages for anyone to learn about how to live life. Children will be encouraged to think specifically about forgiveness and make links to our character virtues.



Our school character virtues

Dotty
Dragonfly



Determination

Eddie
Elephant



Empathy

Hugo
Hedgehog



Honesty

Polly
Puffin



Positivity

Rosie
Rabbit



Respect

Daily a child in our class is identified as showing one of the above virtues through their actions and behaviours. That child will bring home a small certificate to share and celebrate with you and their name will be put on a golden ticket. The golden tickets get put on display in the class jar. At the end of the week one of the golden tickets is selected at random and that child has the opportunity to play games and have a chat with Mrs Dowdney, whilst enjoying juice and biscuits!

Communication

I will share information such as specific updates and half termly overviews (like this one) via email. These will also be uploaded to our school website www.newhartley.northumberland.sch.uk. You will find useful links to our class Facebook posts and calendar on the website too. You are able to contact school via telephone on 0191 2371218 and can report an absence via email at hello@nhfs.uk. For all other enquiries please email admin@nhfs.uk. Please note, all emails, regardless of who they are for must be sent via the admin address. They will then be directed accordingly.

*Many thanks for your continued support,
Mrs Banks*

Spelling objectives planned for this half term with example words:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
The sounds /yoo/ and /oo/ spelt with the digraphs 'ue' and 'ew'.	Words ending with the sound /ee/ spelt with 'y'.	The vowel digraph 'or' and the vowel trigraph 'ore'.	The vowel digraphs 'aw' and 'au'.	The vowel trigraphs 'air' and 'are'.
blue clue true rescue drew new few grew flew threw	very happy funny party family dizzy smelly silly jolly sunny	for short born horse morning more score before wore shore	saw draw yawn crawl claw author August dinosaur astronaut your (HFW)	air fair pair hair chair bare dare care share scared

Help your child to spot the focus sounds/spelling patterns in the words they read and write.
 Can they find and add other examples to each list?
 Feel free to share these in class too!