Year 1 - Autumn 2 2026

Aspirations

What would you like to achieve when you leave school?

Welcome back to our second half term in Year 1. I hope you enjoyed the short break full of Halloween spookiness and are ready for a busy half term that leads us into the festive period! 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. We hope you find it useful.

Dates to remember this half term:

- Kindness workshop Mon 9th Nov
- Children in Need (non-uniform) Fri 13th Nov
- Bottle/chocolate donation non-uniform day Fri 20th Nov
- Poetry workshop Wed 25th Nov
- NHFS Winter Fair Wed 2nd Dec
- KS1 Christmas performance Wed 9th Dec
- Rock Steady performance for parents Fri 11th Dec
- KS1 Party – Tues 15th Dec
- Christmas jumper day & Christmas lunch Thurs 17th Dec
- End of half term - Fri 18th Dec

Check the calendar on our website www.newhartley.northumberland.sch.uk for new and updated events as the term progresses.

Notices:

PE Days – Monday & Wednesday
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 will bring home tasks linked to in class learning. Initially this will have a letter formation focus.

English: Phonics & Reading

Children are grouped according to their next steps and will begin this half term in their newly assigned groups. 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

Through a variety of activities across the curriculum, children will apply their phonic knowledge and taught spelling rules to compose labels, captions and simple sentences for a range of purposes, including poems; factual texts; diary entries in role and story retells. They will continue to develop their understanding of sentence structure using hold/build a sentence tasks; learn to apply capital letters correctly to start sentences as well as for names and places and use simple punctuation (. ! ?) to finish sentences. In addition, they will develop proof reading skills, spotting and correcting mistakes in given sentences.
Spelling lessons will introduce children to new spelling rules and patterns each week. Please see the table at the end of this document to help you support your child at home too.

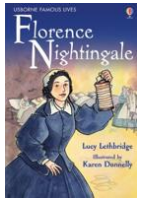
We read stories every day from a range of picture books, often linked to our theme. Some of the texts focused on this half term include:

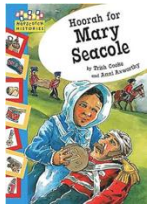














We also love to share books from home. Please feel free to bring in your favourites!

Maths: All lessons follow a mastery approach, providing opportunities for hands on exploration of number (concrete), as well as pictorial and abstract representations (numerals and symbols).

Place Value (within) 20 - including counting on and back, representing numbers, understanding tens and ones, 'teen' numbers

Addition and Subtraction – using a number line to add and subtract, number bonds to 10 and fact families

Multiplication and Division – counting in multiples of 5, recognising equal groups, adding equal groups and using arrays

Measures (Length & Height) – comparing lengths and heights, measuring length using objects, understanding that length is measured in centimetres

Science: Properties of materials

Through this unit of work, children will learn to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. They will be able to identify and name everyday materials, including wood, plastic, metal, glass, water and rock as well as brick, paper, elastic and foil. They will describe and compare the physical properties of these materials and carry out simple investigations to test how suitable some of these materials would be to make a cover for Santa's sleigh. They will need to consider how the cover would be used and the key properties of different materials to help them decide which would be the most appropriate.

Computing: E-Safety – Usernames and Passwords

Children will develop their understanding of how to become responsible users of technology. They will use their own individual usernames and passwords and learn how to log on to the online platform, School360.

These will be shared so that children can access School360 and its age appropriate content at home too.

Digital Painting

Once children can log on to the School360 platform they will be introduced to the digital painting programs and tools to create pictures linked to other subject areas.

DT: Structures (Windmills)

Children will learn and develop new structural skills through the theme of 'windmills'.

They will learn that a structure is something built for a reason; the importance of stable structures and how to achieve this to ensure they do not topple. They will use tools and equipment to make sails for windmills and learn how to attach them effectively, understanding that the sails or blades of a windmill are moved by the wind to generate power.

Music: Singing

In KS1 this half term, we will be learning songs for our Christmas performance to enable us to tell the Nativity story with a fun and engaging twist!



History: Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole 1800s

Children will learn all about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, who they were, what they did and why they are still so famous today.

They will learn about their upbringing in the 1800s and a little about the differences between those from wealthy and poor families.

We will largely focus on Florence and Mary's determination and resilience in their quests to help others and, with regards to Florence, to educate people on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in hospitals and the impact she had on the world of nursing.

PE: Dance PE will be led by our visiting coach from Active Future. The overall objective in our PE lessons this half term is for children to be able to perform and describe dances using simple movement patterns. They will achieve this through a series of sessions that explore four of the six principles of dance: travelling, turning, jumping and stillness and apply these to music. Children will have opportunities to work independently and in pairs. Throughout sessions children will be developing their technical vocabulary and encouraged to describe dances and notice when the key principles have been shown in their own and others' performances.	**PSHCE: Zones of Regulation** Children will become familiar with strategies we can use to support self an co-regulation when we are in an 'unexpected' zone for learning. **Pol-Ed** sessions will be driven by the following questions: • What is bullying? • Why is name calling unkind? • How can I be an empathy expert?	**RE: Christianity – Why does Christmas matter to Christians?** In these sessions children will begin to recognise that stories of Jesus' life come from the Gospels and be able to give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians. They will begin to be able to give examples of ways in which Christians use the story of the Nativity to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas. Children will be encouraged to think, talk and ask questions about Christmas for Christians and for people who are not Christians as well as decide what they personally have to be thankful for, giving a reason for their ideas.

Our school character virtues

Dotty Dragonfly 

Determination

Eddie Elephant 

Empathy

Hugo Hedgehog 

Honesty

Polly Puffin 

Positivity

Rosie Rabbit 

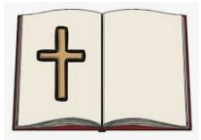
Respect

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 named golden ticket will be 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, with the rest of the golden ticket winners across school!

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	Week 6	Week 7
The digraphs ‘ai‘ and ‘oi’ (Rarely used at the end of English words)	The digraphs ‘ay’ and ‘oy’ (Used for those sounds at the end of words and at the end of syllables)	The sound /oa/ spelt with the vowel digraphs ‘oa’, ‘ow’ and ‘oe’ (oa is very rare at the end of a word)	Assessment Week: Review of Common Exception and High Frequency Words – taken from list of 113 words shared at the beginning of Year 1. This will give an indication of progress so far towards end of year expectations.	The sound /ee/ spelt ‘e’ and with the vowel digraph ‘ee’	The vowel digraph ‘ea’	The vowel digraph ‘ie’ making the /igh/ and /ee/ sounds
rain	play	goal		me	sea	lie
wait	way	coach		she	dream	tie
train	stay	own		we	meat	pie
paid	today	snow		be	each	cried
afraid	says	grow		he	scream	tried
oil	boy	toe		see	read	dried
join	toy	goes		tree	head	chief
coin	enjoy	go		green	bread	field
point	annoy	no		meet	meant	thief
soil	royal	so		week	instead	shield

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 any you find with the class too!