Year 1 Learning Spring 1 2026

English

We are reading Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett. The children received a mysterious parcel containing the book and they are very excited to read it. They will continue to focus on accurate letter formation and composing sentences orally. Additionally, they will be learning about the features of letter writing. The children will also be making predictions and offering opinions to develop their speaking and listening skills. In phonics we are working on phase 5 but we will also revise phase 3 in small groups for those children that need it. The children have a reading lesson every day where we read a whole class reading book related to the phonics sound of the week.

These are the sounds that we will be covering this half term:-

a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e

Maths

Every morning we complete mastering number activities. This half term includes exploring the composition of numbers within 10 and addition and subtraction structures.

They will also have a daily Maths lesson using White Rose and a variety of other resources.

This half term the children will be learning place value and addition and subtraction within 20.

Every week the children will be given the opportunity to practise their number skills on Numbots. This is available online or you can download the APP.

History

Within our History lessons children will learn about famous explorers relating to different places around the world and also within space. They will learn about people who have travelled to the North and South Pole and will discuss what makes people famous.

Science

This half term we are learning about materials. The children will know the name of a material an object is made of and learn about the properties of everyday materials. They will look at what the names of materials we see around school, the materials we use to build a house and what materials keep us warm and which keep us dry.

Geography

Children will be learning about Hot and Cold places in the world and how creatures that live there adapt to their environment. They will be able to name the equator, North Pole and South Pole. They will learn about the four points of a compass. They will also investigate weather patterns.

PE

In gymnastics, the children will explore movements and balances in wide, narrow and curled ways on the floor and on apparatus. They will develop simple sequences, linking movements together.

Children will learn to travel with a ball at their feet and the importance of control in team games. The children will also learn about attacking and defending roles in team games.

Please ensure that your child has a PE kit suitable for outdoors (cold weather) and encourage your child to practice dressing and undressing independently at home. Earrings must not be worn on PE days and if hair is long, it must be tied back. PE days are Monday and Friday.

Art/DT

During Art lessons this half term, we will be painting, focusing on the artist Piet Mondrian. The children will explore mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. Concluding in creating a final piece of art work inspired by Mondrian's art work.

PSHE/RE/Music/Computing

In PSHE, the children will explore the topic of Me in the World. They will talk about what makes them unique and their likes and dislikes. During RE they will explore how different people celebrate and observe different festivals. In Music lessons they will learn about tempo and dynamics using their voices and instruments. The children will learn about digital painting in Computing lessons this half term. The children will choose tools to create art.

How to help your child at home

The children will continue to bring home an FFT whole class reading book linked to their phonics in addition to their usual colour banded home reading books. Please encourage them and support them to read both (although not on the same day). Also, bedtime stories are vital for developing book talk and are really enjoyable too! Most of the children have a spelling booklet. Please help them to read these words and then have a go at spelling one or two per day. They don't have to do them all in one go. To develop their mathematical skills, children can log on to Numbots.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 3rd February -parents evening

Wednesday 4th February -parents evening

Thursday 12th February- break up for half term

Friday 13th February- INSET day (school closed for pupils).

Monday 23rd February- Pupils back to school.

Friday 27th March- Break up for Easter holidays.

If you have any questions please come and see or contact Mrs Armstrong or Mrs Whetton

a.armstrong@hayesmeadow.staffs.sch.uk s.whetton@hayesmeadow.staffs.sch.uk