



YEAR 1 • AUTUMN 1

CHANGES IN LIVING MEMORY

The children will be learning about important dates and events in their own lives and sequencing them on a timeline. They will also explore the differences and similarities between toys and entertainment from the past and present. They will be learning to use different resources to investigate the past.

SUPER START

We will begin the topic by looking at photographs of ourselves and familiar adults as babies and playing a fun game of 'Guess Who!'. Children will explore and compare old and new toys, schools and different forms of transport. We will also discover games that children played in the past before having a go at making and playing with our own traditional cup and ball toy.

FAB FINISH

To celebrate our learning, the children will use their creative skills to design and make their own puppets. They will think carefully about the materials and features they want to use before bringing their creations to life in a class puppet show, giving everyone the opportunity to share and enjoy their finished work.

EDUCATIONAL VISIT

We will take part in an exciting toy workshop at school. This hands-on experience will give children the opportunity to explore toys from different periods, consider how toys have changed over time and use what they have learnt to make comparisons with the toys they know and enjoy today.

KEY TEXTS

Our reading will include a selection of familiar traditional tales, including Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. These stories will support discussion, vocabulary development, retelling and our wider English learning throughout the half term.

OUR LEARNING THIS HALF TERM

ENGLISH

In English, Year 1 will focus on two key writing genres: recounts and narratives. Children will develop their confidence in orally composing sentences before writing and will practise using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops accurately. When writing recounts, they will sequence events clearly and use capital letters for the days of the week and the pronoun 'I'. Through narrative writing, children will create stories with a clear beginning, middle and end, while beginning to make their writing more interesting through adjectives and the conjunction 'and'.

SCIENCE

In Science, we will investigate a range of everyday materials that children encounter in the world around them. We will learn to name and identify common materials and describe their properties using appropriate scientific vocabulary. Through practical exploration, children will consider whether materials are strong, flexible, transparent, waterproof or malleable and begin to think about why particular materials are suitable for different purposes.

ART

In Art, we will explore the imaginative puppets created by artist Paul Klee and use his work as inspiration for our own ideas. Children will experiment with shape, colour, materials and simple joining techniques before designing and making their own spoon puppets. They will evaluate their creations and then proudly use their finished puppets as part of our end-of-topic puppet show.

MUSIC

In Music, children will work with a specialist music teacher to develop their confidence as young musicians. They will explore tuned and untuned percussion, practise keeping a steady beat and responding to rhythm, and develop their singing and ensemble skills. Children will also learn how to listen carefully to one another and build confidence when performing together as a group.

MATHS

In Maths, we will build a secure understanding of numbers to 10 through practical, hands-on activities. Children will count, read, write, order and compare numbers, as well as finding one more and one less than a given number. Using a range of manipulatives and visual representations, they will begin to explore addition by combining groups and subtraction by taking away, while explaining what they notice using mathematical vocabulary.

HISTORY

In History, we will explore the idea of living memory by discussing important dates and events in our own lives and sequencing them on a timeline. Children will compare toys, entertainment and schools from the past with those of the present day, identifying similarities and differences. We will use photographs, objects, stories and other historical sources to ask questions and find out more about how everyday life has changed over time.

PSHE/RE

Our PSHE topic will be 'Being Me in My World'. Children will think about what makes each of us special and unique, how we can help everyone feel welcome and how to keep ourselves and others safe. We will explore our rights and responsibilities within the classroom, discuss positive choices and relationships, and celebrate the things that make us feel proud of ourselves and one another.

PE

In PE, we will focus on developing the fundamental movement skills that underpin future physical activity. Children will practise travelling in different ways, balancing, changing direction and controlling their bodies with increasing confidence. Through games and structured activities, they will also develop coordination, spatial awareness, teamwork and an understanding of how to move safely.

TOPIC

Our topic, Changes in Living Memory, will help children understand how aspects of everyday life have changed within recent generations. By making links between their own experiences and those of parents, grandparents and other adults, children will begin to develop a sense of chronology and use historical vocabulary to talk confidently about the past and present.