



MERCHANT TAYLORS'  
Prep

**Year One Curriculum Notes**

**Topic Work:**

Our Topic lessons are designed to incorporate the subjects of English, Science, History, Geography, Art and Design & Technology. We work on a joint two-year rolling cycle with Year 2 and have a new topic each term.

Cycle 2024-2025 and subsequently on alternate years

**Autumn Term:** **Yum Yum!** In this Autumn term we learn all about food. The children access the topic through teddy bears, learning about a variety of bears, both factual and fictional, and the food they eat. We look at honey and bees, sandwiches and bread and cover healthy eating, cooking, international food and food associated with festivals, especially Christmas. This develops an appreciation of the origins of our food. We visit Mill Green Museum and Mill affording an opportunity to see a working watermill and to make our own bread.

**Spring Term:** **London.** With the help of Paddington Bear and the London underground map, we learn about a variety of aspects of London including its location, history and famous landmarks. We can suggest you taking the tube into London after a couple of weeks – the children will be keen to show off their navigation skills!

**Summer Term:** **'Nature Watch'**. Our topic this term has us finding out about plants, animals and minibeasts in our local environment. We go on a trip to Woolley Firs Environmental Education Centre where we take part in a Nature safari and pond dipping. We explore planting and growing, animal classification and life cycles, as well as fictional stories about nature and wildlife.

Cycle 2025-2026 and subsequently on alternate years:

**Autumn Term:** **Pirates!** In this Autumn term we learn all about a pirate's travels around the world. The children follow the progress of our very own pirate, and use it as a starting point to research geographical facts about various countries around the world as well as historical facts about pirates. We also go on a school trip to visit the Golden Hinde in London to experience life on board first hand.

**Spring Term:** **Space:** In the Spring term we learn about Space. The topic will include a visiting Planetarium and a Rocket Workshop. There will be a focus on writing non-fiction before half term, when the boys will be given the opportunity to create a factual book about space, and a focus on writing fiction after half term.

**Summer Term:** **Knights and Castles:** The Summer term's topic takes us back to Medieval times and includes a trip to Windsor Castle. We learn about life as a squire, all about knights, the features of Medieval castles and about our Royal Family. We create a class presentation to record what we have learnt.



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**English:** We follow 'Read, Write, Inc' which is a synthetic phonics programme covering phonics, spelling, reading, comprehension and writing, letter formation and using the correct pencil grip. The children will read regularly with an adult and take home both daily reading books and a weekly text based on the phonics they are learning. In the Summer term there is a focus on using a variety of punctuation, descriptive language and detail in their independent writing.

**Maths:** Our curriculum is based on the White Rose Maths Scheme and is reinforced by using the IXL Maths computer programme.

**Autumn Term:** **Focuses on Number within 10, Addition and Subtraction within 10, to include:**

- Sorting and counting objects.
- Number – recognising as numerals and words.
- Counting on and back – 1 less, 1 more, fewer than and greater than
- Using a number line
- Part Whole Model
- Number sentences
- Fact families
- Bonds within 10
- Addition and subtraction – finding part and number problems.
- Recognising 2D and 3D shapes.

**Spring Term:** **Focuses on Place Value to 20, Addition and Subtraction and Place Value within 50 to include:**

- Counting and understanding numbers to 50
- Counting and understanding numbers to 50
- Using a number line to 20
- Comparing and ordering numbers
- Counting on and counting back
- Number bonds to 20
- Doubles and near doubles
- Missing number problems
- Partition into tens and ones
- Measuring in centimetres
- Weighing – heavier, lighter, full and empty

**Summer Term:** **Multiplication and Division, Addition and Subtraction and Place Value to 100 to include:**

- Counting from 50 to 100, partitioning into 10s and ones
- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s
- Recognising equal groups – grouping and sharing
- Making Array
- Recognising halves and quarters of objects
- Ordinal numbers
- Number line to 100



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- Comparing 2 numbers
- Money – recognising coins and notes
- Time – days of the week, months of the year, hours, minutes and seconds. Telling the time (hour and half past)

**R.E. (Religious Education):** In Year 1 we focus on developing the children's knowledge of Religious Festivals and stories.

**Autumn Term:** We discuss our own religious identity; what it means to be a Muslim; learn about the story of Rama and Sita, story of Moses and the Christmas story.

**Spring Term:** We learn about the Festivals of Chinese New Year What it means to be a Sikh; What it means to be a Buddhist; What it means to be a Jew, and Stories of Jesus.

**Summer Term:** We learn about the story of Muhammed, Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr; Story of Guru Nanak Vaisakhi; Story of the Buddha Wesak; What it means to be a Christian; What it means to be a Hindu

**PSHE (Personal, Social, Sealth and Economic Education):** Our PSHE curriculum is based on Coram Life Education & SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) which is designed to promote positive behaviour, mental health, wellbeing, resilience and achievement. It incorporates age appropriate RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) in line with Government guidance.

**Autumn Term:** We explore the concept of Relationships:

- Families and Friendships
- Role of different people; families; feeling cared for

**Spring Term:** We explore the concept of Relationships:

- Safe Relationships
- Recognising privacy; staying safe; seeking permission
- Respecting Ourselves and Others
- How behaviour affects others; being polite and respectful

**Summer Term:** We explore the concept of Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing:

- Keeping healthy; food and exercise; hygiene routines; sun safety
- Growing and Changing
- Recognising what makes them unique and special; feelings, managing when things go wrong

**Philosophy for Children (P4C):** P4C aims to develop a Community of Enquiry, where children show curiosity and can have rational reasonable discussions, appreciating and considering the views of others, before reaching a conclusion.

Each term our children will get opportunities to take part in activities to develop each stage of the enquiry as well as taking part in a full enquiry, which are usually based on our Topic work.

This will:



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- develop their ability to ask insightful questions
- allow them to identify types of questions (closed, open & philosophical)
- develop their ability to express ideas and opinions
- practise listening to and responding to the ideas of others through group work and whole class discussions.
- help them appreciate different points of view and make reasoned decisions.

### Computing:

#### Autumn Term:

- Develop basic keyboard skills and technical vocabulary for our devices.
- Develop simple word processing skills.
- Use internet-based research.
- Use basic programming.

#### Spring Term:

- Gather information from a variety of sources.
- Create a multimedia project to demonstrate their learning.
- Continue to learn the basics of coding.

#### Summer Term:

- Further develop keyboard skills.
- Use graphics to enhance work.
- Researching the internet for facts.
- Create an animation with sound.

### Music

#### Autumn Term:

We will be developing our ability to:

- Recognise the difference between pulse and rhythm
- Perform with a sense of pulse.

#### Spring Term:

- The boys will use percussion instruments and participate in group musical activities.
- The focus will be on pitch, rhythm, and pulse.

#### Summer Term

- Ability to discriminate longer and shorter sounds.
- Create interesting sequences using sounds.

### PE/Games

#### Autumn Term:

In PE we will be developing fundamental movement skills, specifically: balance, agility and coordination. We will also be starting to talk about health and wellbeing, relating to our bodies and how we respond to exercise. In Games we



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will be introducing the boys to football, focusing on ball skills including passing and dribbling, with a further introduction to small, sided games.

- Spring Term:** In PE we will be focusing on gymnastics, relating to body control and individual/partner balancing. In Games the focus will be touch rugby, focusing on skills such as evasive running, tagging and ball handling.
- Summer Term:** In PE we will be focusing on athletic events such as running, throwing and jumping. This will be combined with a focus on team work ahead of the boys' sports day. We will also introduce the boys to rounders skills including batting, bowling and fielding. In Games we will be focusing on Cricket skills, specifically batting, bowling and fielding also. With the skills learnt this term in rounders and cricket being transferrable.

### French

- Autumn Term:** The boys will be investigating the following topics:
- Introducing ourselves
  - Greetings
  - Numbers 1-20
  - European Day of Languages
  - Christmas celebrations in France

- Spring Term:** The boys will learn about:
- Parts of the body
  - Days of the week & Mardi Gras
  - Traditional songs
  - Animals
  - Easter.

- Summer Term:** The boys will learn about:
- Pencil case objects
  - Sport
  - Ice cream flavours

### Forest School:

- Autumn Term:** They will be exploring the wider natural environment and learning about the signs of Autumn. This will include harvesting blackberries to make jam, and apples, which they will turn into juice using a press. They will also learn to use tools to harvest the willow and make a willow pencil. Their regular sessions in the woods will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the natural world and develop their sense of awe and wonder.
- Spring Term:** They will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the seasons and the natural world. They will participate in orienteering activities, learn more



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about the trees in our woods and the birds that nest there. This will include caring for the birds. They will also make Easter Gardens.

**Summer Term:** They will learn how to safely light a fire using a fire steel and will enjoy cooking on the fire. They will continue to explore the wider natural environment, including using sweep nets in the meadow and harvesting elderflowers to make cordial.

The sessions throughout the year will enable the boys to develop their curiosity, empathy, collaboration, perseverance, risk-taking and independence.

### Learning Dispositions:

Our Learning Dispositions are all characterised by animal 'learning friends' and are integral to our teaching and learning. Each week during the year we take the opportunity to focus on a particular disposition:

#### Autumn Term:

- Concentration: attentiveness, self-control, conscientiousness, mindfulness
- Perseverance: determination, patience, resilience, loyalty
- Empathy: gratitude, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, humility

#### Spring Term:

- Communication and Collaboration: respect, manners, fairness and teamwork.
- Independence: responsibility, organisation and duty
- Wisdom: initiative, leadership and evaluation

#### Summer Term:

- Curiosity: enthusiasm, enquiry, exploration
- Imagination: hopefulness, adaptability, open-mindedness
- Risk Taking: honesty, bravery, trust

### Homework:

Homework is set weekly via Seesaw to be completed throughout the following week.

This is likely to comprise of short Maths and Writing activities and Spellings and is designed to introduce the children to the concept of homework and good working practises.

We also send home reading books and expect the children to read daily.