

WELCOME TO YEAR 1



2025-2026

The Year 1 Team

Mrs Whyman- Class Teacher



My favourite subject to teach is art and reading. Art is so creative and relaxing and children have opportunity to fully express themselves and their ideas. I have always being a big believer in using art within the curriculum to stimulate imagination and discussion. Reading is a skill for life. Once you have mastered this skill you can do anything. It is a form of pleasure and relaxation for me personally and I love seeing the children's joy when having stories read to them.

Did you know? Mrs Whyman has 2 grown up girls. One of them who you know very well is Miss Whyman who taught you in Nursery. Mrs Whyman loves to explore, especially costal areas. I love nothing more than going to the beach and listening to the sea, wind, rain or snow. Filey, Scarborough and Newquay are particular favourites. Lately I have become very interested in crafting alongside my daughter and we love to colour.

Miss Nightingale- Teaching Assistant



Did you know? I have a deep passion for gardening, finding peace and joy in nurturing plants and creating pretty outdoor spaces for all children to enjoy. Travelling to European cities is another of my great passions, I love emerging myself in culture and local history with my family.

My Favourite subject to teach is Maths. The enthusiasm and curiosity of young minds makes every lesson exciting.

The best thing about being at St Albans...It truly feels like one big family, we all know one another and support each other. It's heart-warming to see children we have once taught now out in the community, thriving and making a difference. Carrying on the Saint Albans Way!

Year 1 Experiences



Trips and Visitors

In Spring term, children welcome a visitor from the time of the **Great Fire of London**. They have a day of hands-on experiences with artefacts and become immersed in history.

Each year we have a very important guest to talk about **Road Safety** and practise using zebra and pelican crossings.

Every year, Year 1 go on a visit linked to their work in science on **living things**. We have previously visited White Post Farm and The Butterfly House for this.

Children look at different animal habitats and find out about how each animal eats different things. They even have the chance to get up close to some of them.

They also have a great day in the sunshine with their friends and go on the adventure playground!



The **Key Stage 1 Nativity** is a huge event at St Alban's. Pupils gain performing skills and confidence as they rehearse this important story, and often describe it as being one of their favourite memories from primary school when they are older.

We also have our whole-school annual trip to the pantomime. This year we are seeing **Snow White**.

Maths

Year 1 maths is where we start our NCETM-based curriculum. This is a maths curriculum which works on a Mastery approach and in very small, bite-sized steps – this means that pupils learn all together, and everyone keeps up.

Just like in Reception, children use real life objects, pictures and models to support their understanding. Key representations include number lines, tens frames and cubes.

Pupils count from 0-100, forwards and backwards and start from any number. They also start to write mathematical statements using - + and =.

Towards the end of the year pupils learn to tell the time to the nearest hour or half hour.



Phonics & Reading

All children in Reception to Year 2 are precisely placed into phonics groups, to ensure that they are receiving daily teaching closely matched to their own ability. We follow Read Write Inc. Phonics to ensure that all of our children can read fluently and confidently by the time they leave Key Stage 1.

In Read Write Inc. Phonics pupils....

- Learn letter-sound correspondences and practise these in a range of words.
- Read common exception words on sight
- Understand what they read
- Read story books aloud with fluency and expression.

Any pupil who is finding it tricky, has low confidence or is at risk of falling behind has expert-led 1:1 daily phonics tuition for 10 minutes. This ensures that no child is left behind, and no child doesn't make progress with their reading.



Writing

Children in Year 1 use elements of RWI Get Writing to support them to develop early transcription skills. Pupils remember and then write dictated sentences which are perfectly pitched to their knowledge and ability.

Children also have opportunities to write more freely when they have whole-class writing sessions linked to their daily Talk Through Stories sessions. Pupils can think of their own sentences, or rewrite a caption about an exciting part of the book using the sounds which they know.

Spelling and Handwriting

Spellings are set and quizzed each week in children's phonics groups, and parents are kept up to date with these.

Handwriting is all about fine motor skills, and as well as daily handwriting practice, our pupils' art curriculum is closely linked to the development of these.



PE

Children have two physical education sessions each week: one inside and one outside. This allows them to maintain good levels of physical fitness, as well as develop skills across a range of different games and sports.

Pupils have the chance to join multi-sports or gymnastics clubs after school to develop these skills further, and they have the opportunity to compete in our annual Sports Day.

Autumn 1 – Football and gymnastics

Autumn 2- Hockey, dance

Spring 1- Dodgeball, athletics

Spring 2- Basketball, gymnastics 2

Summer 1- Handball, cricket

Summer 2- Athletics, fitness/tennis



Art



Drawing

Pupils learn about creating light and dark using pattern and experimenting with pressure, based on the work of LS Lowry.

Painting

Children recreate a Monet masterpiece using their colour mixing skills and stippling technique.

Sculpture

Pupils use different techniques to create cardboard sculpture. This is linked closely to their work in history on houses through time.

Design and Technology

Structures

Children design and build their own freestanding structures. They use practise and apply different techniques to build strength and stability in their own bridges.

We conclude this exciting unit with a parent morning. Mums, dads, grannies and other family members come in and help children with their final projects.

Mechanisms

Pupils plan and design the most effective windmill for a toy set. They look at a range of types of sail to help inform their design choices.



History

Homes in the Past

Children learn about the different types of home we have today, and then compare these to what houses were like in the past.

Great Fire of London

Pupils use different sources to learn about the cause and impact that the Great Fire of London had.

The Gunpowder Plot

This unit looks the origins of Bonfire Night and what happened during the Gunpowder Plot. Children learn about why the plot failed.



During our **Local History Month**, children in Year 1 look at how Wickersley has changed from being a farming community.

Geography



Local Study – children use digital maps and then explore the local area to find out what there is in Wickersley. This is part of our fieldwork project during Fieldwork Month at St Alban's.

London – pupils use digital maps to explore different landmarks in London, they then learn about map keys and creating their own maps. They learn the name and location of all 4 countries in the United Kingdom.

Weather Patterns- pupils learn about the four seasons and some of the weather patterns associated with each of these. They also learn about weather maps and start to use and identify some of the symbols commonly used on them.

Religious Education

In RE we primarily use Understanding Christianity to support pupils to develop a strong knowledge and love of Christian values. We also ensure pupils are exposed to and have a good understanding of other faiths, particularly those which are prevalent in modern Britain.

In Year 1 we have a virtual synagogue tour as part of our learning about places of worship.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
Who do Christians say made the world?	Why does Christmas matter to Christians?	Who is Jewish and how do they live?
Christianity	Christianity	Judaism
Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
What do Christians believe God is like?	What does it mean to belong to a faith community?	How should we care for the world and for others, and why does it matter?
Christianity	Thematic Unit	Thematic Unit

PSHE

PSHE is taught through 3 main strands at St Alban's, and in Year 1 these build on previous learning from Nursery and Reception.

Relationships – different types of family, positive behaviour and being respectful, privacy and asking permission.

Living in the wider world- taking care of others and our world, using the internet safely, different jobs in the community.

Health and wellbeing- food and exercise, staying safe in the sun, managing feelings, how rules keep us safe.

We use **MyHappyMind** to support pupil mental health and wellbeing. This focuses on understanding the brain, developing positive relationships, calming down strategies and setting goals.



Science



Practical work is essential in Key Stage 1 science, as it makes the invisible, visible. Our science curriculum works with this in mind.

Biology

- Senses- what each of our senses is for
- Bodies – identifying and naming key parts of the human body
- Plants- knowing the names of common plants and flowers around us
- Animals- knowing the names of different carnivores, omnivores and herbivores

Chemistry

- Materials – knowing which materials common objects are made from and their properties

Physics

- Seasons – recognising that our weather changes based on seasons

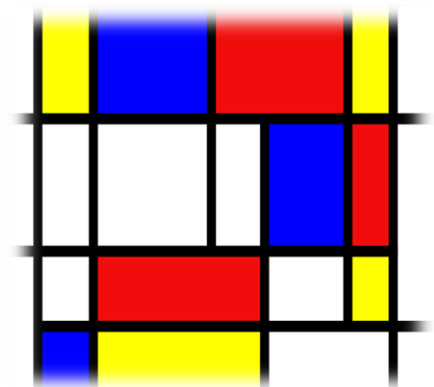
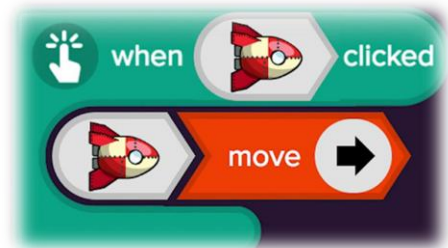


Computing

This year is the first year of our new computing curriculum. Pupils in Year 1 will:

- Notice how technology is used in the world.
- Create digital paintings.
- Sort and group objects using software.
- Use word processing software to type text and then edit this to change its appearance.

We will also continue to use Discovery Programming to build the foundations of pupils' coding skills. This is set in the context of a programming simple games and is a fantastic introduction for young children.



Music



Our music curriculum has two main strands: singing and playing the recorder. Upon entering Year 1, all children are given their own recorder and they make progress with this instrument throughout their time at St Alban's, which includes reading and writing musical notation. Children also have singing lessons which include appraisal and listening skills.

During Year 6, children will continue to have their music education supported by Miss Payling, a music specialist who works at St Alban's for half a day each week.

Pupils have the opportunity to perform in Key Stage Assemblies as well as the KS1 Nativity.

