

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new class and a new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer holiday and enjoyed making lots of special memories together. I am delighted to welcome the children to Year 1 and I am looking forward to an exciting year of learning, new experiences and lots of fun!

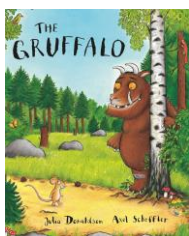
This term, the children will be introduced to a range of exciting topics across the curriculum, building on the knowledge and skills they developed in Reception while becoming increasingly confident and independent learners.

Here is a brief overview of our topics for the Autumn Term:

**RE-** In RE this half term our topic is '**Creation and Covenant**'. In an age appropriate way, children will consider how the world exists and how all that is came to be. They will learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, and that this belief is found in Scripture and the prayers of the Catholic Church.

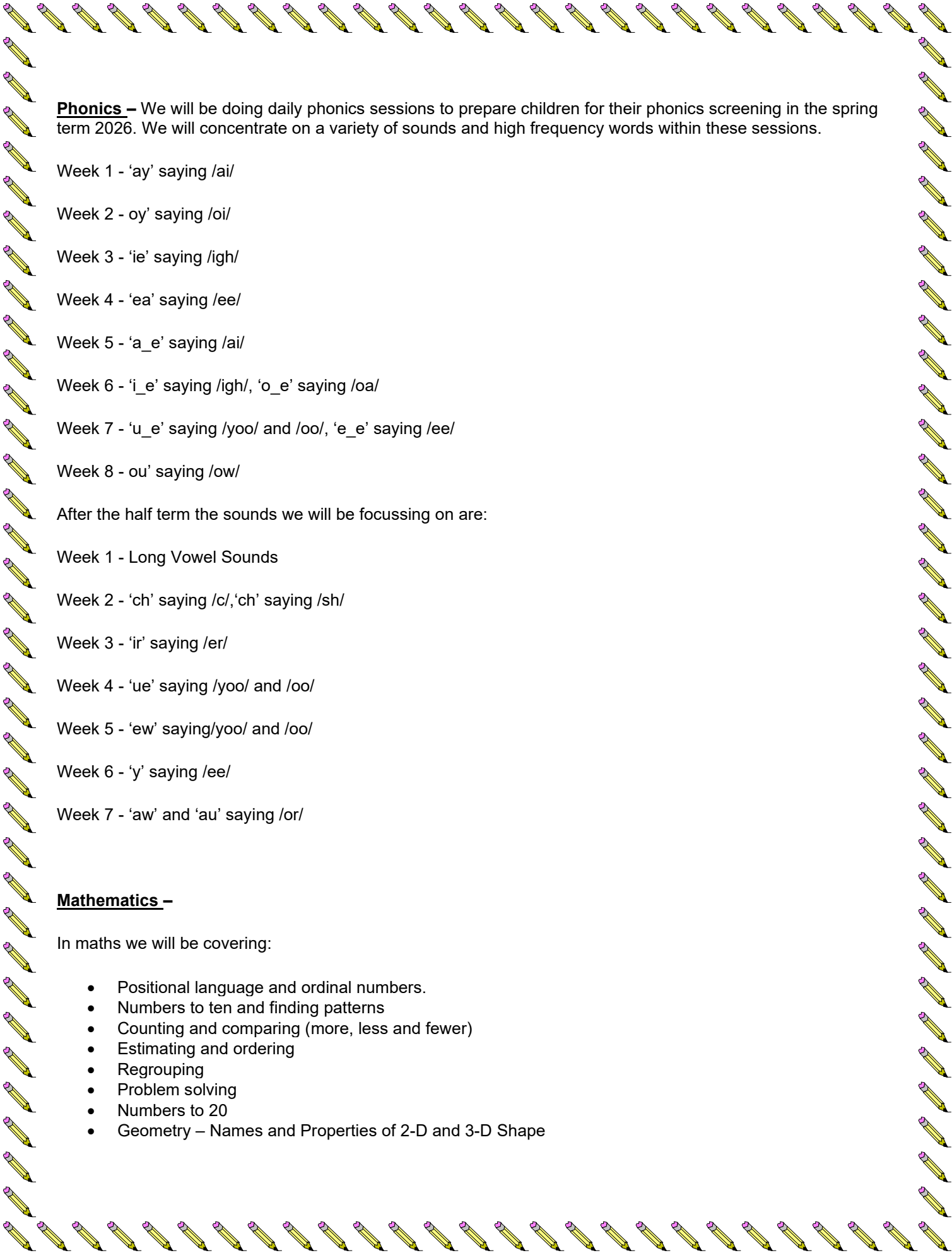
After the half term we will move on to the topic '**Prophecy and Promise**'. The focus is for children to develop an early understanding of the Christian belief that God showed us the full depth of his love by sending Jesus his Son. The children will journey through the life of Jesus following the Gospel of St Luke, with a focus on the narrative sequence of the story, the importance of Mary's 'Yes' to God and the presence of angels who are God's messengers and protectors and point to the divine nature of Christ.

**English** – This term in English, the children will explore a range of exciting texts and develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a variety of activities. During the first half term, our focus text will be *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. The children will develop their skills through verbal recounts, character descriptions, invitations and instructions.



After half term, we will explore *Emma Jane's Aeroplane*, where the children will write setting descriptions, postcards and acrostic poems. Throughout the term, we will continue to develop the children's phonics, spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting skills, encouraging them to use their growing vocabulary and express their ideas with increasing confidence and independence.





**Phonics** – We will be doing daily phonics sessions to prepare children for their phonics screening in the spring term 2026. We will concentrate on a variety of sounds and high frequency words within these sessions.

Week 1 - 'ay' saying /ai/

Week 2 - 'oy' saying /oi/

Week 3 - 'ie' saying /igh/

Week 4 - 'ea' saying /ee/

Week 5 - 'a\_e' saying /ai/

Week 6 - 'i\_e' saying /igh/, 'o\_e' saying /oa/

Week 7 - 'u\_e' saying /yoo/ and /oo/, 'e\_e' saying /ee/

Week 8 - 'ou' saying /ow/

After the half term the sounds we will be focussing on are:

Week 1 - Long Vowel Sounds

Week 2 - 'ch' saying /c/, 'ch' saying /sh/

Week 3 - 'ir' saying /er/

Week 4 - 'ue' saying /yoo/ and /oo/

Week 5 - 'ew' saying /yoo/ and /oo/

Week 6 - 'y' saying /ee/

Week 7 - 'aw' and 'au' saying /or/

## **Mathematics** –

In maths we will be covering:

- Positional language and ordinal numbers.
- Numbers to ten and finding patterns
- Counting and comparing (more, less and fewer)
- Estimating and ordering
- Regrouping
- Problem solving
- Numbers to 20
- Geometry – Names and Properties of 2-D and 3-D Shape

## Science -

Our first topic is called '**Seasonal changes**'. Reflecting on their own experiences, children learn about the four seasons and the weather associated with each. Pupils explore how seasonal changes affect trees, daylight hours and clothing choices. They plan and carry out their own weather reports, considering the knowledge required for this job.

At the end of the topic, the children will be able to:

- Name the four seasons in order and describe the typical weather in each.
- Name some activities and events in the four seasons.
- Describe the appearance of a tree's leaves in each season.
- Complete a pictogram and use it to answer simple questions.
- Recall that summer has the most daylight hours and winter has the least daylight hours.
- Record data about the temperature across the four seasons.
- Label a map of the UK with capital cities and seasonal weather symbols.

After the half term our topic will be '**Everyday Materials**'. The children will be identifying and naming objects and the materials from which they are made. Pupils compare and group materials based on how they look and feel and carry out tests to sort materials based on unobservable properties.

At the end of the topic, the children will be able to:

- Name objects and identify the materials they are made from.
- Recognise that objects are made from materials that suit their purpose.
- Recall that a property is how a material can be described.
- Sort objects based on the materials they are made from.
- Group objects based on their properties.
- Suggest ways to test materials for their properties.
- Make predictions and recognise whether they were accurate.
- Use their observations to answer questions.
- Begin to recognise if a test is fair.

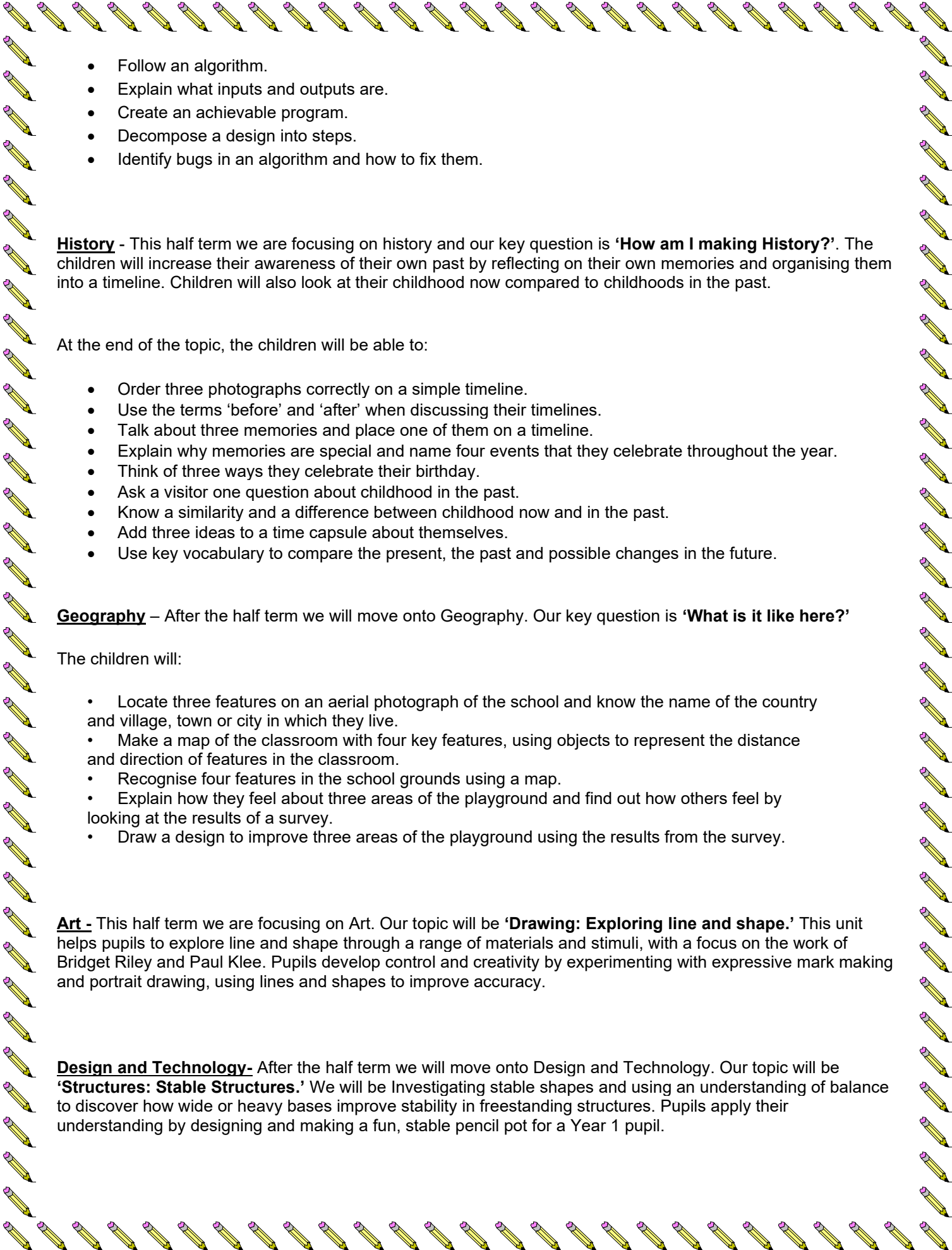
## Computing - In Computing our first topic is '**Computing systems and Networks: Improving mouse skills.**'

In this unit, the children will be taught to:

- Use computers more purposefully
- Log in and navigate around a computer
- Drag, drop, click and control a cursor using a mouse
- Use software tools to create art on the computer

After the half term our topic will be '**Programming 1: Algorithms unplugged.**' The children will be taught to:

- Explain what an algorithm is.
- Write clear algorithms.

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- Follow an algorithm.
  - Explain what inputs and outputs are.
  - Create an achievable program.
  - Decompose a design into steps.
  - Identify bugs in an algorithm and how to fix them.

**History** - This half term we are focusing on history and our key question is '**How am I making History?**'. The children will increase their awareness of their own past by reflecting on their own memories and organising them into a timeline. Children will also look at their childhood now compared to childhoods in the past.

At the end of the topic, the children will be able to:

- Order three photographs correctly on a simple timeline.
- Use the terms 'before' and 'after' when discussing their timelines.
- Talk about three memories and place one of them on a timeline.
- Explain why memories are special and name four events that they celebrate throughout the year.
- Think of three ways they celebrate their birthday.
- Ask a visitor one question about childhood in the past.
- Know a similarity and a difference between childhood now and in the past.
- Add three ideas to a time capsule about themselves.
- Use key vocabulary to compare the present, the past and possible changes in the future.

**Geography** – After the half term we will move onto Geography. Our key question is '**What is it like here?**'

The children will:

- Locate three features on an aerial photograph of the school and know the name of the country and village, town or city in which they live.
- Make a map of the classroom with four key features, using objects to represent the distance and direction of features in the classroom.
- Recognise four features in the school grounds using a map.
- Explain how they feel about three areas of the playground and find out how others feel by looking at the results of a survey.
- Draw a design to improve three areas of the playground using the results from the survey.

**Art** - This half term we are focusing on Art. Our topic will be '**Drawing: Exploring line and shape.**' This unit helps pupils to explore line and shape through a range of materials and stimuli, with a focus on the work of Bridget Riley and Paul Klee. Pupils develop control and creativity by experimenting with expressive mark making and portrait drawing, using lines and shapes to improve accuracy.

**Design and Technology**- After the half term we will move onto Design and Technology. Our topic will be '**Structures: Stable Structures.**' We will be Investigating stable shapes and using an understanding of balance to discover how wide or heavy bases improve stability in freestanding structures. Pupils apply their understanding by designing and making a fun, stable pencil pot for a Year 1 pupil.

**PSHE** - This half term our topic will be '**Being me in my world**'. The children will be able to explain why their class is a happy and safe place to learn. They will also be able to give different examples where they or others make their class happy and safe.

After the half term our topic will be '**Celebrating differences**.' The children will be able to explain some ways that they are different and similar to other people in their class and how this makes them special. They can also explain what bullying is and how being bullied might make someone feel.

**PE** – This half term the children will be doing **Forest School on a Tuesday afternoon**.

After half term our topic will be:

**Fundamentals (outdoor)** – We will explore the fundamental skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. Identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.

**Dance (indoor)** – We will explore travelling actions, movement skills and balancing. Copy and repeat actions linking them together to make short dance phrases. Opportunities to perform then receive and provide feedback.

### **Organisation**

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled (including shoes) and that coats have a hook so that they can be hung on a peg.

Spellings will be sent home every Monday to be tested the following Monday. Please try and practice the spellings at home as often as possible.

PE days are on a Tuesday and Thursday after half term. From the week beginning 07.09.2026 the children will be taking part in Forest School every Tuesday and will not be doing any additional PE lessons. Please make sure your child comes in Forest School clothing with an additional change of clothes in a bag.

Your child's reading book will be changed once a week. Please read with them daily and record a comment in their reading journal.

Thank you for the continued support of your child at home; it is invaluable. Hearing them read regularly, practising their counting and number bonds, helping with weekly spellings and providing a quiet and calm environment for them to complete their homework helps to secure their progress and reinforces the work we do in class.

I have now updated our class page. We will update it as regularly as possible so that you are aware of what we are learning about in addition to providing a brief overview on the weekly newsletter sent out on a Friday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Camadoo-Nynan.

Our class email address is [year1@stpauls373.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year1@stpauls373.herts.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

Mrs Camadoo-Nynan