

# Year 1 Curriculum Overview for Parents & Carers 2024-2025



**Introduction:** This overview is to help you understand what the children will be learning while they are in Year 1. The first page shows the general timetable for the class and the following page gives an overview of the learning going on in each half term 'unit'.

Our curriculum is built on exciting ideas: each half term we will be immersing ourselves in an idea, connecting skills in literacy, numeracy, science and computing as well as becoming familiar with artwork, music and the lives of interesting people who have a connection to the ideas we are exploring. Our curriculum is dynamic so during the year we may change elements in response to new opportunities.

**Core skills:** Our English (reading and writing) and maths curriculum aims to help children develop a range of skills over the year. In maths, this includes continual development of areas such as number, shape, space and measure. In English, this involves exploring various units such as poetry, non-fiction and narrative. The descriptions below give some specific aspects of what we will be focusing on at various points during the year.

**Year 1 Timetable:** This is a summary timetable, showing the general organisation of learning in Year 1. The timetable is flexible and is subject of change during the year.

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thursday	Friday
AM	Phonics & Ivrit	Phonics & Ivrit	Ivrit PE	Phonics & Ivrit	Kabbalat Shabbat Spelling/ Tricky words
	Maths English	PE Maths	English/Handwriting	Parsha Maths	Phonics
PM	PSHE	Music	Maths	English	Theme/Library
	Guided Reading	Computing	Science	Assembly	Handwriting/ Golden time
		Jewish Learning			Mystery Reader

Please bring reading books to school on Mondays so that we can issue new ones to take back home by Tuesday.

### **Supporting your child's learning in Year 1:**

- A key way to support your child's learning is by reading with and to them, every day. Focus on making reading fun as well as practising letters and word recognition by encouraging them to read to you. Take them to local libraries to explore and try some online reading apps.
- Taking your child to visit exciting places of learning, such as the Science Museum, the Greenwich Observatory or the Natural History Museum, can give them an opportunity to share their learning with you and to further embed the things they have explored in school.
- Support your child's growing mathematical understanding by helping them to practise counting in groups, estimating and creating number bonds to 10, 20 and 100.
- Involve them in cookery, gardening and other areas of home life in order to help them practise their developing skills in estimating, weighing and measuring.
- Practise reciting and ordering the days of the week, months of the year and reinforcing their general knowledge on days, hours, minutes and seconds.
- Have fun with floating and sinking experiments, light and dark.
- During the year we will be exposing children to the lives of 'interesting people'. You can further stimulate their interest and understanding by researching these individuals in encyclopaedias and online.

## Curriculum themes for Year 1

### **September-October: *Water***

In this theme, we will be exploring the importance of water in our life. Through our literacy work, we will be exploring how to write about character's feelings using the text 'The Rainbow Fish'. We will look at the water cycle and create a shape poem based on 'The Little Raindrop.' In Science, we will conduct experiments involving water: floating and sinking, evaporation and create our own water cycle. We will visit the Welsh Harp Nature Reserve to take part in pond dipping and a nature walk to discover woodland creatures. We will also have a visit from a lifeguard to talk about water safety and are planning to visit a Church as part of our Religion Education.

### **November-December: *Time***

In this unit, we will build on the work done in Reception on how to read and tell the time and the importance of time in our world. We will work through texts involving the time (eg. 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?') and write diary entries to show what happens at different times in the day. We will explore how we grow up from babies and create a time-line of our history. As with all our work at Alma, we will be mindful of our different families' history and where we grew up. In Science, we will explore the differences between light and dark and timings globally. We will explore seasonal changes and the weather.

### **January-February: *Our Bodies***

This topic explores the bones in our body and some of the basic organs, eg. heart, lungs, blood and brain. The children will learn songs to help them memorise which bones are connected to each other and will create their own skeletons. We will be exploring how heart rate is affected by exercise and the impact on eating healthy. We will create a factfile about the body. We hope to invite a variety of visitors into our classroom who work with our bodies and explain how they make our bodies feel better, when we are unwell. Our maths work will explore graphs and charts and we will use a variety of measuring tools to find correlations between our heights and sizes of our feet. Our Jewish Learning for this topic will explore the biblical stories connected to our bodies and will study some of Rambam and his findings.

### **March-April: *Heroes***

In this topic we will explore the reasons why we justify someone or something as heroic and how children see superheroes as strong and brave. We will focus on Queen Esther who features in the story of Purim. During this topic, we will discuss how 'ordinary' people' can be heroes and will create our very own 'Spoonerheroes'. We will be investigating some famous heroes and how many female role models have become heroic too. The children will create poems, write non-fiction texts and using heroes from other stories as a basis to write their own. We will talk about how we see our family members as heroes in our own lives and what we can do to display heroic traits. We hope to visit the Florence Nightingale Museum where we will 'meet' Florence Nightingale and learn more about her work and the Barnet Fire Station.

### **April-May: *Books and Scrolls***

The first topic of the summer term will look at the importance of books within our lives and the influences that texts have on our society. We will explore the different important books, texts and scripts within a variety of religions and write non-fiction texts comparing and contrasting some of the stories within them. We will find out about influential authors and will invite visitors in to talk to us about their own books. We will explore the influence that newspapers have on us and write our own reports ourselves. In our maths lessons we will continue to work on developing our number skills, moving onto solving number problems.

### **June-July: *Pupil led topic***

*This half term will be a class- chosen topic. The children will be guided and supported to include a variety of mathematical, literacy, science, arts, humanities and ICT skills within this topic.*

In the past, children have chosen topics such as 'space', 'science', 'animals' or 'food'.