

Year 1 Curriculum Overview for Parents & Carers 2025-2026



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 a theme, connecting skills in English, maths, science and computing as well as becoming familiar with artwork, music and the lives of interesting people who have a connection to the themes we are exploring. Our curriculum is dynamic so during the year we may change elements in response to new opportunities, wider Alma initiatives, or children's interests.

Core skills: Our English (phonics, reading and writing) and maths curriculums aim 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 an example 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	English (writing)	English (writing)	Jewish Learning with Morah Jeanie	English	Kabbalat Shabbat Spelling quiz
	Phonics & Ivrit Maths	Phonics & Ivrit Maths	Phonics & Ivrit	Phonics & Ivrit	English (writing)
PM	Library	Science	Maths	Maths	PSHE/ RE/ RSE
	PE	Computing	Theme	PE	Golden time
	Handwriting	Music	Assembly	Guided Reading and handwriting	Mystery Reader

Please bring reading and library books to school on **Mondays** so that we can issue new ones.

Supporting your child's learning in Year 1:

- A keyway 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, sounds, 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 as well as identifying different shapes.
- 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 different scientific experiments such as floating and sinking, light and dark, fast, and slow.
- 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

<p>September-October: <i>Water</i> In this theme, we will be discovering the importance of water in our lives. Through our English 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 be celebrating the Chaggim (Jewish festivals). In maths, we will be learning about place value, addition and subtraction and shape.</p>	<p>November-December: <i>Time</i> In this topic, 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 (e.g. '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 timeline 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 global timings. We will also explore seasonal changes and the weather. In Our Jewish Learning for this term will be to learn about Shabbat and importance of how we spend our time.</p>
<p>January-February: <i>Our Bodies</i> This topic explores the bones in our body and some of the basic organs, e.g. 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 investigating how our heart rates are affected by exercise and the impact of eating healthily. We will create a fact file about the body. We hope to invite a variety of visitors into our classroom who work with bodies, to explain how to look after them. Our maths work will examine 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 half term will investigate the biblical stories connected to our bodies and we will study some of Rambam and his findings.</p>	<p>March-April: <i>Heroes</i> In this topic we will discover 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 including many female role models. The children will create poems, write non-fiction texts, and use heroes from other stories as a stimulus 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 visit the Barnet Fire Station.</p>
<p>April-May: <i>Books and Scrolls</i> 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 different important books, texts, and scripts within a variety of religions and write non-fiction texts comparing 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. In our maths lessons we will continue to work on developing our number skills, moving onto solving number problems based on money and fractions. In Jewish Learning, the children will learn about the Torah scroll and make our own pretend Torah.</p>	<p>June-July: <i>Pupil led topic</i> <i>This half term will be a class- chosen topic. The children will be guided and supported to include a variety of mathematical, English, science, arts, humanities, computing, Ivrit, and Jewish Learning skills within this topic.</i> In the past, children have chosen topics such as 'space,' 'science,' 'animals' or 'food.'</p>