Acorn Class Newsletter

Autumn 1 2026

English

In English this term, we will be using Drawing Club to bring stories to life and make reading fun. The children will explore characters, settings and share their own imaginative ideas. Year 1 will practice forming their letter correctly and then learning to write simple sentences with a naming part and an action or being part, while Reception will be developing their pencil control, communication skills and practising their letter formation, writing their names and starting to write short CVC words (cat, dog, sun).



Additional information

Home learning will be set weekly on a **Friday** and will need to be handed in on the following **Friday,** along with your child's reading record to be checked and the books to be changed. Reading should happen at **least 4 times at home** each week and recorded in the reading record.

Please ensure all uniform, including PE kit is named and in school at all times along with a named water bottle.

Our PE days are **Tuesdays and Fridays.**

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact us via acorn@trentyoungs.dsat.org.uk

Maths

Reception: We will build strong foundations in number and shape through play and practical activities. We will explore matching, sorting and comparing objects, learn about patterns, and begin to understand numbers to 5 through counting, recognising and representing them in different ways. We will also develop early subitising skills, compare amounts using language like more and fewer, and explore simple 2D shapes and positional language.

Year 1: We will begin by focusing on numbers up to 10; representing them in tens frames and recognising numbers as both numerals and words. We will also start to look at number bonds to 10 using building blocks and pictorial representations. Finally, we will look at different ways of adding to 10 by using part-whole diagrams and begin to lay the foundations of the inverse of addition.

Science

During this half term, we will be looking at the key question 'How are animals the same and different?'. Through this, we will look at different parts of the human body and our senses. We will then begin to compare the structure of humans and animals and identify similarities and differences between them. Lastly, we will begin to look at the food animals eat and try to group them with this.

Art

Our first area of focus this year is on 'Spirals' We will explore the way we hold a drawing tool and begin to explore mark-making with different drawing tools.

Design Technology

Reception will focus on building structures through junk modelling by cutting and joining materials. Year 1 will explore mechanisms by creating their very own moving monster and explore how to make this work.

Religious and Worldviews Education

We begin our year with a focus on creation with Year R exploring 'God and Allah' whilst Year 1 answer the question of 'What is Creation?'. This will see Year R learn more about the beauty of the Earth and Year 1 will review the creation story in Christianity. Both years will then make comparisons to other religions, including Islam and Hinduism.

Phonics/Reading

The children will be taking part in daily phonics and reading sessions. In reception children will begin their phonics journey by learning Phase 2 sounds and how to blend them to read simple words. They will develop skills in oral blending, recognising initial sounds, and practising reading and writing with the first set of decodable words and tricky words. In Year 1, we will revise Phase 3 and 4 GPCs before beginning to look at the start of the Phase 5 GPCs. The children will be matched to a reading book and this will be sent home each week.

Physical Education

During 'First PE', we will experiment different ways of moving around a given area, learn how to negotiate space and be safe when moving. Children will be introduced to basic co-ordination skills with a ball and begin balancing objects on our bodies. In 'Superhero Dance', we will explore moving to music and creating dance sequences in pairs.

French

Year R will focus on greetings, introductions and numbers whilst Year 1 will supplement this with additional songs and games to allow them to share their learning with others.

Computing

We will begin our learning with a focus on digital painting. We will focus on making marks on a screen before using paint tools to draw a picture. Lastly, we will look at changing the size and colour of tools we have used.

History

This half term, we will be exploring 'How the Great Fire of London changed people's lives? Through this unit, we will use a timeline to sequence event, describe how things have changed over time, explore how the fire started by looking at difference evidence and think about fire safety and how to keep ourselves safe.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Acorn Class will be looking at 'Me and My relationships' We will learn about feelings, friendships and working together. We will be exploring how to share, take turns and listen to others, while thinking about different classroom rules.

Music

Reception will combine Music and Movement to explore different speeds, beats and match this to their movements. Year 1 will look at musical vocabulary and begin to explore timbre, pitch and tempo through listening and playing music.