



Year One Newsletter

September 2025



Welcome to Year 1!

What a fantastic start to the year we've had already! The children have transitioned really well from Reception to Year 1 and are showing us what role models they are already!

Curriculum



Art & DT: In Art, Year 1 will be focusing on painting and drawing and exploring the artwork of Henri Rousseau. In DT, we will be designing and making a product for our enterprise day in December – watch this space!

Geography: As Geographers, we will build our place and location knowledge, starting by learning about the countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities. We will then explore both physical and human features.

History: Our History projects this year will focus on significant events and people from the past. Our first significant event will be The Great Fire of London. We will enjoy reading extracts from Samuel Pepys diary, acting out the events that took place and understanding how this significant event impacted on what we do now.

RE: In RE this term, we will be learning about Christianity. In addition to this, we will learn how to look after our planet and one another linking this to stories associated with the Christian faith.

Science: Plants, animals and materials are the focus of our Science learning this term. As Scientists, we will explore plants and classify them, compare animals and their structure and identify, name and compare common materials. We are looking forward to linking our science with our forest school and exploring our natural forest area.

Mathematics: Maths will focus on number, including the two operations of addition and subtraction. Four Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) will also be taught every fortnight throughout the term. To be a great mathematician, children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills. We will also be looking at number bonds from 1-20.

English: English will focus on a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry activities across the term. The children will develop their understanding of sentence structure, punctuation and writing for the purpose of others to read. Our first book is 'Oi Frog!'. This is a lovely rhyming book with a funny twist.

Computing: Communicating in the Digital World is the focus of computing in Year 1. The children will receive a personal log in to access the games and activities online. This term we will also cover online safety at home and in school.

Habits of Mind

This term we are introducing our school community to the **Habits of Mind by Arthur L. Costa** – a set of thinking dispositions that help children become confident, capable, and resilient learners. The first habit we are focusing on is **Striving for Accuracy**. This means encouraging pupils to check their work carefully, take pride in doing their best, and recognise that effort and persistence make a real difference. At school, we are supporting children to slow down, reflect, and improve their work step by step. You can encourage this habit at home too by praising your child's effort when they take extra care, whether it's finishing homework neatly, building something carefully, or even helping in the kitchen. Together, we can help our learners see the value in aiming for accuracy and taking pride in doing things well.

Striving for accuracy

Check it again!



- ✓ Doing your best.
- ✓ Setting high standards.
- ✓ Fact checking.
- ✓ Finding ways to improve.

Homework

Each week, your child will be given a list of spellings to learn. These spellings will have a specific sound focus to help match their spelling with their phonic knowledge. Please support your child and help them to learn these words. New spellings will be given out on a Friday and a spelling test will take place the following **Friday**. The maths' focus this term will be to become familiar with numbers to 10 and understand addition and subtraction. Homework does not need to be handed in but practised throughout the week to support spelling and maths tests. We encourage as much home reading as possible as the benefits of home reading are huge.

P.E.

P.E. for Year 1 will be on a **THURSDAY** and take place outdoors (weather permitting). Jewellery will need to be removed prior to the P.E. session for health and safety reasons – this cannot be done by a member of staff or another child in the class so please manage this at home.

Please send children to school in their PE kits. Polite reminder that no logos are permitted. Please see the uniform policy for more information.

Water Reminder

We recommend that all children bring a clearly labelled water bottle in to school daily. This must contain fresh water only. For hygiene reasons, they must be taken home, washed and refilled daily. They can be refilled during the school day but anything other than water will not be allowed to be consumed unless you can provide written medical evidence from your GP. On receiving this you will then need to fill in a Medical Health Care plan. See section 4. If your child has a packed lunch, a second drink should be included. However, no fizzy drinks are allowed to be brought into school. Children having school lunches will be provided with water.

Website Reminder

We will be updating our website with useful and helpful information regarding dates and activities. To access this information, including pictures and videos of the children learning, make sure you visit the class pages on the academy website regularly. Find us at: www.oldcleepprimaryacademy.co.uk then click the 'Children' tab, followed by 'Year Group' and Year 1.



Social Media Reminder

We are regularly updating our school media account, so please follow us on Facebook (@Old Clee Primary Academy) to see what the children have been up to! Please also send pictures of children's personal achievements in and we will endeavour to post these on our page too.



Dates for your Diary

PE every Thursday – please ensure children come to school in their PE kit.

Every Friday: Spellings given out.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Leader, Mrs Rytting and The Year One Teaching Team