



# Year 1 Newsletter January 2026



## Welcome back Year 1!

### Website Reminder

We will be updating our website with pictures and videos of the children's learning, make sure you visit the class pages on the academy website. Find us at: [www.oldcleprimaryacademy.co.uk](http://www.oldcleprimaryacademy.co.uk) then click the 'Children' tab, followed by 'Year Group' and Year 1.



### Social Media Reminder

We are using our school media account frequently, so please follow us on Facebook (@Old Cle Primary Academy) to see what the children have been up to!

### Curriculum

**Art & DT:** In Art, we will continue developing our study of artists by looking at the work of the Sculptor



Jaume Plensa. He produces the most amazing detailed head sculptures and we look forward to creating our own Dock Tower.

In DT we are looking forward to our topic on structures, where we will be making a Viking shield and helping to make a Viking long boat.



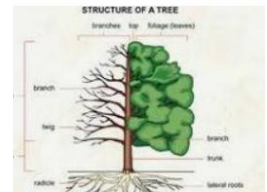
**Geography:** We are going to extend our knowledge of the United Kingdom (UK) by looking at the physical and human geography you may

see if you visited the different countries in the UK. We will use this geographical language to write about differences and similarities.

**History:** Last term, we thoroughly enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London. This term we will be looking at our local history. We will interpret and handle evidence from the past and ask questions about how the fishing industry has changed over the years and shaped our local heritage. We will be learning and acting out the story of Grim and how he founded our town.



**RE:** We will continue with Christianity and compare to other celebrations and beliefs.



**Science:** Our understanding of plants, animals and the Earth's movements will be developed further this term as we look at evergreen and deciduous trees, carnivores and omnivores and study the seasons and how the day length varies. We are looking forward to carrying out some science experiments this term investigating how plants grow in different controlled environments.

**Mathematics:** Maths will focus on place value and introduce the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Four Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) will also be taught every fortnight. The children will develop their mathematical skills through daily fluency, reasoning and problem-solving activities. Using the 'say what you see, use what you know' philosophy and the concrete, pictorial, abstract method of maths teaching helps the children understand, visualise and manipulate ways of problem solving to become confident mathematicians.



**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 through recalling and reinventing exciting stories. This will encourage us to write for entertainment. We are looking forward to learning some traditional tales such as Mother Goose.

**Computing:** Communicating in the Digital World is the focus of computing in Year 1. The children are becoming much more confident logging on and navigating the computer, the keyboard and mouse.

### 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. Spellings will be given out on a Friday and a spelling test will take place the following **Friday**. We encourage home reading as the benefits of home reading are huge. Maths focus will be the fortnightly KIRFS with an activity to support one of the key facts. **Please support your child to complete their homework. Homework is to be handed in each week.**

**Year 1 P.E.** sessions will be every **Wednesday**. This term we will be doing Dance the first half term and then ball games after half term. Children come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days. Please check your child's

Home School Contact book for Uniform information. Jewellery will also need to be removed prior to the P.E. session for health and safety reasons – this cannot be done by a member of staff.

**Habits of Minds** This term we move on from striving for accuracy and persisting to 'Question and Problem Solving'. The children will learn to have a questioning attitude, find problems to solve and develop questioning strategies. We will continue to develop our thinking matters approach to learning by using a range of thinking frames designed to help the children organise and retrieve their knowledge and understanding.

#### **Daily Routines**

Please ensure that your child brings the following to school daily:

- \* Yellow home school book
- \* Green reading record book
- \* School reading book (RWI Book Bag Book)
- \* Library book
- \* Waterproof coat/jacket

\* Water bottle - We recommend that all children bring a 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 must be clearly labelled. Children can refill them during the school day too. Anything other than water will not be allowed to be consumed by your child during the school day unless you can provide written medical evidence from your GP explaining why this cannot be so. 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.

It is very important that your child remembers to bring their yellow book to school every day. This is used to communicate messages between school and home. Please ensure if there are any changes to your child's home time arrangements you record this in their yellow book. Spelling scores will also be added to the book weekly.

#### **Dates for your Diary**

**Every Wednesday:** PE Day

**Every Friday:** New homework given out and Homework to be handed in from the previous week.

Kindest regards,

**The Year One Teaching Team**