

Countess Gytha Primary School Curriculum Information

Year

Merlin Class Reception / Year 1

Term

Autumn 2026

Dear Parents,

This letter is designed to provide key information about learning this term. Our themes for the term are 'Me & My World' and 'Emergency, Emergency!' Below you can find the details outlining the content covered for the term ahead.

SUBJECT	CONTENT
Communication and Language & English	Children's communication and language development is integrated across all areas of learning and continuous provision opportunities. This term, we will be introducing phonics skills to our Reception children through the Little Wandle scheme. We will be learning how to recognise sounds and blend these to read short words. Initially, we will focus on recognising initial sounds and will build on our skills to orally segment and blend short words. We will learn how to form our letters correctly and practise this through name writing activities and other opportunities to label and write CVC/CVCC words. Children in Year 1 will build on their phonics knowledge as they continue to progress through our phonics scheme. We will continue to focus on our sentence writing skills, building independence and adding adjectives to our writing.
Maths	In maths, Reception children will begin with a strong focus on numbers to 5. We will look at how to represent these numbers, order quantities and match them to their numerals. Later in the term, we will be building on this knowledge to begin looking at numbers to 10. By the end of this term, the children will be able to subitise to 5 with increasing confidence and speed. Year 1 children will begin by consolidating their recall of number facts to 10, including fact families and solving addition and subtraction problems. Later, we will explore place value within 20 and apply our addition and subtraction skills to larger numbers. Throughout Autumn, all children will explore shapes. We will spend some time looking at common 2D and 3D shapes and describing what we notice.
Physical Development (PE)	Every Wednesday morning, the children will be doing PE. During PE, children will learn a variety of balancing, throwing and catching skills. This term, PE will have a focus on multi skills and team games. All children will come to school wearing their PE kits on Wednesday for this term.
Understanding the World (History/ Geography)	To develop our understanding of the World, we will be exploring our environment. Year 1 pupils will begin by looking at continents and oceans before Reception children join us to begin to explore key features of our local area, including how to draw and interpret maps. In the second half of this term, Year 1 pupils will be learning about the Great Fire of London, whilst the Reception children focus their learning on people who help us.
Science	In science, we will be looking at the seasons and observing seasonal change over time. We will also be learning about our bodies and our 5 senses.
PSED (PSHE)	We will be following the SCARF units 'Me and My Relationships' and 'Valuing Difference'. We will be thinking about how to form positive, kind relationships and how to celebrate diversity and what makes us special.

Countess Gytha Primary School Curriculum Information

Year

Merlin Class Rec/ Year 1

Term

Autumn 2026

SUBJECT	CONTENT
Expressive Arts and Design (Art & DT) (Music)	In music, we will explore and learn chants that tell a story and learn that a chant uses speaking voices musically. We will learn Banana Rap and We're Going On A Bear Hunt to support our explorations of rhythm and music. In Art & DT, we will be creating self portraits and collages. The children will explore colour mixing and use different materials to create Christmas crafts later in the term.
RE	Our explorations will begin from a non-religion viewpoint, where we will be considering ourselves and what is important to us. After the half term, alongside our Nativity rehearsals, we will be learning how Christmas is celebrated by different people, underpinned by a Christian viewpoint.
Computing (Year 1)	Year 1 children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. They will also consider how to use technology responsibly and who to ask for help if they see any content or comments online that make them feel uncomfortable.

Hello and Welcome to Merlin Class!

It is always lovely to welcome lots of new faces into the school. This year feels extra special as we also get to welcome back lots of familiar faces, too! I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your families over the next couple of weeks, as well as continuing to work closely with some of our families from last year. This term will be very busy with lots of exciting learning experiences for your children - don't forget to look on Tapestry or our class page on the website to see what we have been up to! As always, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask myself or the office. We are all very excited for the year ahead!

Miss Morris & the Merlin Class Team

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PE

Please ensure your child (Reception and Year 1) come to school dressed in their PE kits on **Wednesdays**. All children will begin changing in school after the Christmas holidays.

Water bottles

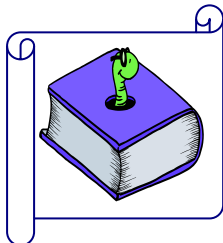
Please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school every day.

Outdoor learning

Please can you ensure your child's named wellies and waterproof coat are in school at all times—we are often learning outside no matter the weather!

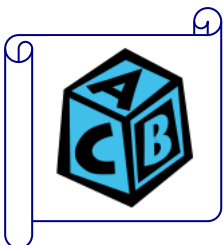
Homework

Homework and **reading books** are collected in on a Thursday and reissued on a Friday.



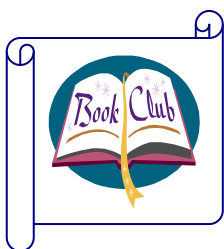
Reading

- Encourage your child to recall the letters and sounds learnt so far in phonics.
- Please try to hear your child read as much as possible and allow them time to discuss the book.
- Please do try to comment in your child's reading record after hearing them read - thank you!



Spelling

- Reception: we will be practising how to write our names this term. Children may wish to practise this at home, too! **There is no spelling test for reception children.**
- Year 1: Your child will bring home a list of spellings on Friday, which they will need to practise across the week. Spellings are handed back in on a Thursday, where the children will then complete a spelling test. Spellings will focus on the sounds learnt in phonics that week.



Homework

- Reception: please practise forming the letters on the sheets provided in the plastic wallet.
These will start coming home once phase 2 phonics teaching has commenced. More details will be shared on Tapestry once these begin to be sent home.
- Year 1: homework will focus on automatic recall of number bonds. Once children build automaticity of bonds, they will progress onto the next set in line with their curriculum. Please support your child to practise and remember their number bonds.