

YEAR 1 CYCLE A CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A broad and balanced curriculum that builds knowledge, sparks curiosity and helps every child to flourish.

See
Feel ♥
Listen
Learn
Belong

EXPLORE
DISCOVER
BELONG
FLOURISH
♥

TELEPHONE

Small
Actions
A Brighter
World ♥

HISTORY-LED

HISTORY-LED

GEOGRAPHY-LED

HELEN KELLER: A LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS



BIG QUESTION

How did Helen Keller overcome challenges and inspire the world?

We learn who Helen Keller was, how Louis Braille's invention helped her communicate, and how courage, determination and new ideas can change lives.



BIG QUESTION

How can maps help us explore London and our local area?

We use simple maps, directions and aerial images to explore streets, landmarks, weather and the features of cities and places nearby.



BIG QUESTION

How were schools different in the past, and how does our world connect today?

We compare Victorian schools with school life today while also exploring animals, global places and ways we can care for our planet.

WHAT PARENTS WILL SEE IN THIS OVERVIEW

Each topic page shows the key learning, memorable experiences, suggested texts and practical challenges from the Year 1 Cycle A class plan. Alongside these themed units, children also explore religious education across the year, computing, music, PE and PSHE.

Learning in God's Love

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

HELEN KELLER

BRAILLE

COURAGE

DREAM

DETERMINATION

KINDNESS

Our
Local Area

PAST

PRESENT

BRIGHTER FUTURES

EXPLORE

LEARN

ACHIEVE

Brighter
Futures
Together ♥

See with your heart

HISTORY-LED TOPIC

HELEN KELLER: A LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS

Explore resilience, communication, materials, senses and local places through rich cross-curricular learning.



HISTORY

Find out who Helen Keller was and why she is remembered today. Learn how she communicated with the world and how Louis Braille's invention helped people read and write through touch. Explore how courage, perseverance and helpful ideas can change lives.



SCIENCE

Compare everyday materials, sort and group them by their properties, and investigate how materials are used. Learn about the human body and the five senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste – and explore how our senses help us stay safe and understand the world.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Investigate shelters and dens, look at existing products and think about what makes them useful. Design and build a simple den, test ideas, use materials safely and improve the finished structure.



COMPUTING

Use digital devices safely and purposefully, create simple digital work and begin to understand that instructions can be given in a clear sequence. Practise simple online safety and problem-solving skills.



GEOGRAPHY

Explore the local area through fieldwork and simple map work. Learn about physical and human features, use picture maps, and think about how we can care for natural environments close to home.



ART

Explore primary and secondary colours, use a colour wheel and practise colour mixing. Notice how different artists use colour and create simple printmaking and painting inspired by bright, expressive artwork.



ENGLISH

Listen to stories and biographies, talk about ideas and build vocabulary. Write labels, captions, simple instructions and short pieces of descriptive or recount writing linked to Helen Keller, colours, senses and local learning.



RE

Explore Diwali through diva lamps, new beginnings, traditions and the idea of luck. Learn about Milad un Nabi, who Muhammad was and what people can learn about good leadership.



MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Making diva lamps; birthday celebrations; local exploration; colour mixing; den building.

SUGGESTED TEXTS

Helen Keller;
My Map Book;
The Colour Monster.

INNOVATE CHALLENGES

How did Louis Braille's invention help Helen Keller communicate with the world? How can we learn more about our local area? What can we learn about materials by comparing their properties? Can we work out what something is just by touching it? Can we use colour mixing skills to complete a picture? Can we design and build a den that is strong and easy to use?

ASK ME ABOUT

Who Helen Keller was. How Braille works. How our five senses help us. What materials are made from. How picture maps help us. What Diwali and Milad un Nabi are about.

Small
Steps
Big
Possibilities

Learning in God's Love

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LONDON

BIG BEN

TOWER BRIDGE

THE THAMES

WESTMINSTER

GEOGRAPHY-LED TOPIC

CITY EXPLORERS

Explore London, maps, weather, plants and change while developing geographical enquiry, science, art and design skills.



GEOGRAPHY

Use simple maps, aerial images and directions to explore London and the local area. Learn about landmarks, settlements, physical and human features, countries and capital cities of the UK, weather and seasons, and how places can be similar or different.



SCIENCE

Observe the weather and seasonal change, measure wind, temperature and rainfall, and notice how day length changes over the year. Learn about wild and garden plants, roots, shoots, fruits, seeds and bulbs, and investigate how leaves are similar and different.



ART

Explore motifs, line, shape and texture through printmaking. Create collagraph prints, experiment with pattern and design weather-inspired images using simple tools and materials.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Find out how wheels, axles and chassis help vehicles move. Design and make a moving vehicle, test how it works and improve it using simple construction skills.



ENGLISH

Read stories, poems and information texts linked to London, weather and plants. Write labels, captions, simple reports, diary-style sentences and short recounts, including work linked to the Great Fire of London.



RE

Explore Harvest and think about sharing, generosity and thankfulness. Talk about why people celebrate harvest and how communities help one another.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Making crumble; weather investigations; map work; planting and observing; exploring London.

SUGGESTED TEXT

The Great Fire of London.

INNOVATE CHALLENGES

How did London change after the fire? Can we use a simple picture map to find our way around London? How are leaves similar and different? Can we design and print a weather symbol collagraph? Can we make a moving vehicle?

ASK ME ABOUT

How to find landmarks on a map.
What happened in the Great Fire of London.
How the weather changes.
What plants need to grow.
How wheels and axles work.
Why Harvest matters.

Learning in God's Love

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes

Good
Behaviour
Hard Work
"A Brighter
Future"

SAME
CHILDREN
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

EXPLORE
LEARN
BE KIND
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

A BRIGHTER
WORLD

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
FOR A
GREENER
TOMORROW

NEW PLACES
BRIGHT IDEAS
KINDER PEOPLE

HISTORY-LED TOPIC

SCHOOLS THEN, SCHOOLS NOW

Compare Victorian schools with school life today while exploring animals, global places, art, food and caring for our world.



HISTORY

Find out how schools were different in Victorian times and compare them with schools today. Explore what classrooms, lessons, rules and resources were like in the past, and think about what has changed for children over time.



SCIENCE

Learn about animals and their body parts, sort animals into groups such as birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, and think about what animals eat. Begin to care for the wider world by talking about recycling and how we can help protect our environment.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Make some noise; nursery role play; global exploration; bright street art; healthy food making.

SUGGESTED TEXT

Stories about schools, animals and places around the world.

INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Where in the world is our chosen country? What can we find out about our class animal? How can we help our school to recycle everyday materials? Can we create a 3-D building inspired by James Rizzi? Can we make a healthy supermarket sandwich?

ASK ME ABOUT

How Victorian schools were different. What animals can be grouped by. How to recycle more. Which country we explored. Who James Rizzi was. How to make a healthy sandwich.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Explore where food comes from and learn simple food preparation techniques. Follow hygiene rules and design and make a healthy salad or sandwich by chopping, peeling and grating ingredients safely.



ART

Create bright, busy street artwork inspired by James Rizzi. Explore buildings, colour and 3-D murals, and use shape and pattern to make lively city scenes.



ENGLISH

Read stories and information texts linked to schools, animals and places around the world. Write simple comparisons, questions, labels, captions and short information writing about past and present schools, animals and global learning.

GEOGRAPHY LINK

Use simple maps and globe work to explore a chosen country and compare it with our local area. Learn about places around the world, human and physical features and how environments can be protected.

Learning in God's Love

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

Small
Choices
Make a
Big Difference

EXPLORE
BELIEVE
RESPECT
LEARN
TOGETHER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACROSS CYCLE A

Six units invite children to explore beliefs and practices respectfully, while thinking deeply about celebration, leadership, sharing, family, gifts and memories.

Different
People
Brighter
World

KINDNESS
BUILDS A
BETTER
TOMORROW

RESPECT
UNDERSTAND
BELONG
FLOURISH



DIWALI

Diya lamps; New beginnings; Diwali traditions; Luck.

We explore Diwali, learn why Hindus celebrate it and think about light, hope, good luck and new beginnings.



Big question:

How do celebrations bring light and hope?



MILAD UN NABI

Muhammad; The first Muslim; Leadership.

We learn about Milad un Nabi, find out who Muhammad was and talk about the qualities of a good leader.



Big question:

What makes a good leader?



HARVEST

Harvest; Sharing.

We explore Harvest and think about thankfulness, sharing and how communities can care for one another.



Big question:

Why is sharing important?



PURIM

Special clothes; Story of Esther; Gifts.

We learn about Purim, hear the story of Esther and think about celebration, dressing up and giving gifts.



Big question:

Why do people give gifts?



NAAM KARAN

Gurdwara; Guru Granth Sahib; Naming ceremony; Families.

We explore Naam Karan, find out about Sikh naming ceremonies and think about why families and names are special.



Big question:

Why are names and families special?



ESALA PERAHERA

Buddha; Sacred places; Memories and remembering.

We explore Esala Perahera, learn about Buddhist ideas and think about memories, remembering and special places.



Big question:

Why do memories matter?

LITERACY & LEARNING ACROSS THE YEAR

Writing genres: labels, captions, simple instructions, stories, poems, diary writing, questions, short reports and recounts.

Learning by doing: den building, colour mixing, map work, materials investigations, weather observations, planting, moving vehicles, animal enquiries, recycling, printmaking, food making and role play.

Linked across the curriculum: making thoughtful connections between our learning in RE, English, history, geography, science, art, design & technology, computing, music, PE and PSHE.

Learning in God's Love

EXPLORE
DISCUSS
READ
CREATE
CONNECT

Big ideas
Brighter futures

CURIOSITY
COMPASSION
COMMUNITY