

*Wow, what an amazing and busy first term we have had in Year 1! It has been a pleasure to see the children's confidence and enthusiasm for learning flourish as they have settled into their new classes, forming new friendships along the way.*

*We have particularly enjoyed sharing our creativity with you all during the harvest festival and the Christmas production of 'Children Around the World'. I'm sure you would agree that the children worked extremely hard and are talented singers and dancers.*

*We can't wait to start our new topic, 'Up, Up and Away', in the new year and share our learning with you in our class assemblies.*

*Mrs Cross, Mrs Minter, Mrs Brewer, Mrs Weekes, Mrs Hearne and Mrs Sisterson*



### English

In the new year, the children will be learning all about **flight**. We will start this topic by thinking about The Greek Legend of Icarus and Daedalus. The children will role play the characters and retell the story. We will develop our drama work further when learning about the Montgolfier brothers and how their discovery impacted the development of flying machines. We will also be writing letters, as if we are Amelia Earhart, back home to her family.

We will be writing our own weather reports and become Claygate Primary's weather forecasters when we think about seasonal changes and weather symbols during science lessons.

### Maths

As mathematicians, the children will be developing their addition and subtraction skills to solve lots of problems! 'If there are twelve people in the hot air balloon and four more passengers get in, how many passengers are there altogether?' We will be learning to measure length and height using a range of non-standard measure e.g cubes, pencils, hand-span, bricks. We will also be learning about weight, mass, volume and capacity, comparing these using non-standard forms of measurement.

### Science

Next term the children will be learning to identify different materials and explore their properties. We are particularly looking forward to becoming scientists as we investigate which materials are best suited to make an umbrella.

We will also be further exploring seasonal changes and learning what weather symbols look like and how they are used.



### Computing

The children will learn how to use a camera and will apply this skill when making their own stop motion animation. They will also discover how to use a search engine effectively and safely to gather information about the history of flight.

### Religious Education

In RE we will be focusing on Christianity and exploring the key events in Jesus' life, as well as different images of God contained within the Bible. As we approach Easter we will be learning about the meanings of the many symbols connected to Easter.

### Art

This term the children will learn about the work of Marc Chagall, looking closely at how he puts together the images within his work and think about what these may mean. The children will create their own work based around his techniques.



They will then use their knowledge of flight and materials to design and make their own kite.



### Music



We will be singing songs around flight incorporating untuned percussion accompaniment. The children will also explore sound through song and instrument work - learning about musical dynamic markings.

### PE/Games

During gymnastics the children will be learning to jump and land safely in a range of ways, exploring different apparatus.

We will continue to work on our throwing and catching skills, introducing rugby balls. They will continue to develop their pace and build up their stamina when running long distances.

### Home-Learning

Homework will be sent home on a Friday and handed in by the following Wednesday. Weekly spellings should be revisited regularly to support the children with their learning journey. We ask that you also hear your children read and/or read to them daily, the benefits of this are staggering. Simply reading aloud to children has the potential to develop their vocabulary, improve their ability to learn to read, and - perhaps most important - foster a lifelong love of books and reading, and in Year 1, we love to read!

You will receive spellings for each half term and the children will practice these at home every day. Your child will then be tested on the words on a Friday morning and they will bring home their spelling book to allow you to view their efforts. These must be returned to school on Monday.

For further Maths activities the children may log onto [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0) with their personal log in details.

Science:

<http://www.weatherforkids.org/>

*We thank you, as always, for your continuing support.*

*Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.*

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**Our doors are always open!**

# Successes from Autumn

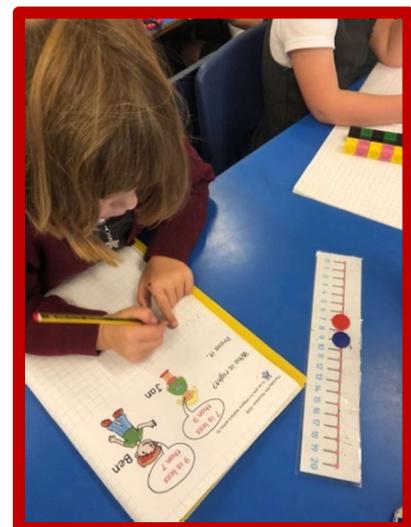
## 'All About Me'

During group reading the children have enjoyed developing their knowledge and understanding of the features of non-fiction texts. They have then transferred this knowledge when creating their own 'Top Trump' cards, instructions and animal fact files. We have linked our science learning about animals into our art work and have created some marvellous clay animals. The children put a tremendous amount of effort into ensuring their animal had all the appropriate features. We know you will display these with pride!



We had an amazing learning experience when Tamsin from Chertsey museum visited with many toys from the past. The children had the opportunity to hold and play with the old toys as well as sorting and sketching them. They particularly enjoyed making their own Thaumatrope.

The children are really rising to the challenge that our new approach to maths mastery brings. They are developing the use of their mathematical vocabulary and have really impressed us by applying this knowledge in other areas of the curriculum. For example one child said, "Look those baubles on my Christmas tree make a greater than sign."



**Our doors are always open!**