

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

## Curriculum Update

### Autumn Term 1 - Y1NT and Y1G

Dear Parents,

This letter informs you about what your child will be learning at school in their first half term of Year 1. We hope that you will be able to help your child explore and discuss these areas at home through some of the following ideas:

- researching areas at the local library and helping your child develop their library skills
- searching with them on the internet for child friendly material and relevant websites
- watching relevant television programmes that may support their work, or visiting a museum
- **and, most importantly**, talking to your child about what they have done at school! Listen to what they have learned and praise their achievements!

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Our Learning</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	We will start our year by exploring the Lord's Prayer in greater detail. We will move on to explore the story of Creation, thinking about what it tells us about God and how it fits into the 'Big Story' of the Bible. As part of this we will be looking at different ways that people give thanks by exploring both the Christian Harvest Festival and the Jewish Festival of Sukkot.
<b>Computing</b>	We will begin by refreshing ourselves using the school laptops, and checking we can log on, control the cursor using a mouse pad and type our name correctly. As part of our topic work we will be using digital cameras to take photographs of our local environment and will learn how to change the orientation and use the zoom function. We will learn about what the internet is and what we use it for. We will discuss which apps, games and websites are appropriate for children, and those that are designed for adults. Finally for our topic we will learn how to safely find images using an internet search engine, and will create a labelled poster, adding our own captions.
<b>Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)</b>	We will be creating our own classroom rules and thinking about the importance of rules to make the classroom a safe and happy place to be in. Through discussion, we will think about the needs of other people and all living things, recognising different groups and communities we all belong to.

Subject	Our Learning
<b>Music</b>	Our topic within music is “Hey You!” This unit uses an old-school hip-hop style to teach children about the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch. We will listen to, sing and play different instruments whilst exploring fun hip-hop tracks.
<b>Physical Education</b>	We will start the year exploring different forms of dance, responding to a range of stimuli and choosing appropriate movements to express our dance ideas. We will make rounded and spiky shapes with our bodies and create different patterns in the air or on the floor. We will then move on to the Gymnastics topic of “Flight - Bouncing, Jumping and Landing”. We will learn to bounce, hop, spring and jump using a variety of take offs and landings, and will link together two or more actions with increasing control.

## Topic: The Enchanted Woodland

**Science** We will be exploring both our school and neighbouring environments. We will learn to identify and name a variety of wild and common garden plants, including evergreen and deciduous trees, and will describe the different parts of a plant. We will also develop the skill of being able to identify common animals and insects and the homes they live in that can be found in our local environment.

**Art and Design** We will be exploring art and design predominantly using the natural environment this term. We will create pieces of artwork and sculptures using natural materials and will take inspiration by looking at the art work of Andy Goldsworthy. We will also have opportunities to do observational drawings and paintings of woodland creatures using photographs and pictures.

**Design and Technology** We will be using natural materials to create a nest or build a den for woodland animals in their natural environment. We will also have the opportunity to use some of these natural materials to design and then make a decorative woodland crown.

**Geography** We will spend the first two weeks learning mainly about our chosen country (Kenya for Y1G and the USA for Y1NT). As part of these lessons we will learn about the landscape, famous landmarks (both human and physical) and the climate. Then, as part of our term’s main topic, we will be looking at aerial photographs of our local area, and will be comparing these with maps of the same location, observing the features shown.

