



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

Welcome to Apple Class!

6th September 2021

Dear Parents,



Welcome to the first term of this school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child into Reception/Year 1. After a long and enjoyable summer holiday, I hope that your child is ready to embark upon a fun and exciting year of learning. Our team members are myself (Miss Cannon - class teacher/key stage leader) and Mrs Beresford (full time teaching assistant).

During the first few weeks in Apple Class, your child will spend a large proportion of their time exploring the classroom environment and interacting with other children. They will discover where the different areas of the classroom are and will learn how to use resources appropriately and how to tidy them away. The Y1 children will also refresh themselves of the environment as well as form new relationships with our new school members. The outdoor area has had another little makeover over the holidays and myself and Mrs Beresford have been very busy updating our resources, having a move around and setting up a variety of new learning experiences for the children in class.

Tapestry



We are pleased to say that we use this online learning journey programme for parents to access. We currently use this in class and the programme includes a parent feature so you can access your child's learning journey from home. Using a piece of educational software called 'Tapestry', every child in Apple Class will have their own individual learning journal. By logging in with a secure username and password you will be able to access your child's journal. Parents are only able to view their own child's journal and all information is stored on a highly secure server, which is monitored closely.

Tapestry online learning journeys allow you to view your child's observations and photographs from their time at St Bartholomew's. We know how much your children like to take home their work to show you. Therefore, any work to be included in their learning journal will be photographed and added, with an explanation of the learning that took place. This work will then be sent home for you and your child to keep. Tapestry allows you to add observations and photographs of your own, as well as share your comments on school posts. We love to hear about their learning and wow moments from home and we enjoy sharing these with your child in school. As we progress through the term and start receiving Tapestry observations from home, we will share these in class. When you send something on Tapestry from home, we will load this up on the board in class and your child will be able to stand in front of their peers and talk about their news. This allows the children to get to know each other, as well as develop their speaking skills. I know many of you have used Tapestry before although if you require support with this software, please ask. We use Tapestry on a very regular basis so please ensure you log in regularly to keep up to date with activities and events in class.

Phonics


In Phonics, we follow a scheme called Read, Write Inc. The Reception children will learn a new sound every day and they will take home a handwriting sheet to complete, which will be linked to the sound taught that day. This sheet will inform you of the sound that has been taught during the day and will also show you how to form the letter. Please ensure the Phonics folder is kept in your child's book bag so the new sound sheet can be added every day. Year 1 children will have weekly homework which will be sent out on a Friday and is to be returned the following Wednesday. It is important that your child completes their homework as much as possible in order for them to secure what they have learnt during the week.

Reading

In school, we aim to develop a love of reading and this is something we always work very hard at in Apple Class. Initially, the books we send home for the Reception children will not contain any words. The idea of these picture books is to discuss what is happening, talk about the characters, talk about how the characters may be feeling and what they are thinking. The children need to be encouraged to predict what may happen in the story and need to learn good story language and exciting vocabulary. This helps your child become confident enough to create or re-tell a story in their own words.



Reading as often as possible with your child is crucial and we ask that you read every night with your child. The children who have access to regular reading sessions tend to read at a more confident speed and also develop a bank of excellent vocabulary. This helps your child to progress quicker with their speaking and listening development and also aids writing sessions later on in the year. I normally offer individual reading meetings later on during term 1 to discuss how we teach reading in school (information to follow at a later date - Coronavirus depending).



Please be aware that even though staff do not record reading sessions in your child's reading diary - your child reads to an adult every day during their Phonics lesson. We are constantly working on this important area of the curriculum.



As some of you are aware, we teach daily phonics lessons using a scheme called Read Write Inc (RWI). Please refer to the class booklet in your welcome pack for more information about RWI. Towards the end of last year, we purchased the new RWI Book Bag Books which support your child's reading at home throughout EYFS and Key Stage 1. These books complement what your child is reading at school during phonics lessons and is a tighter match to their phonics learning, compared to the previous scheme. Read Write Inc book bag books will form the core books in our home reading scheme.

Read Write Inc Book Bag Books (RWI)

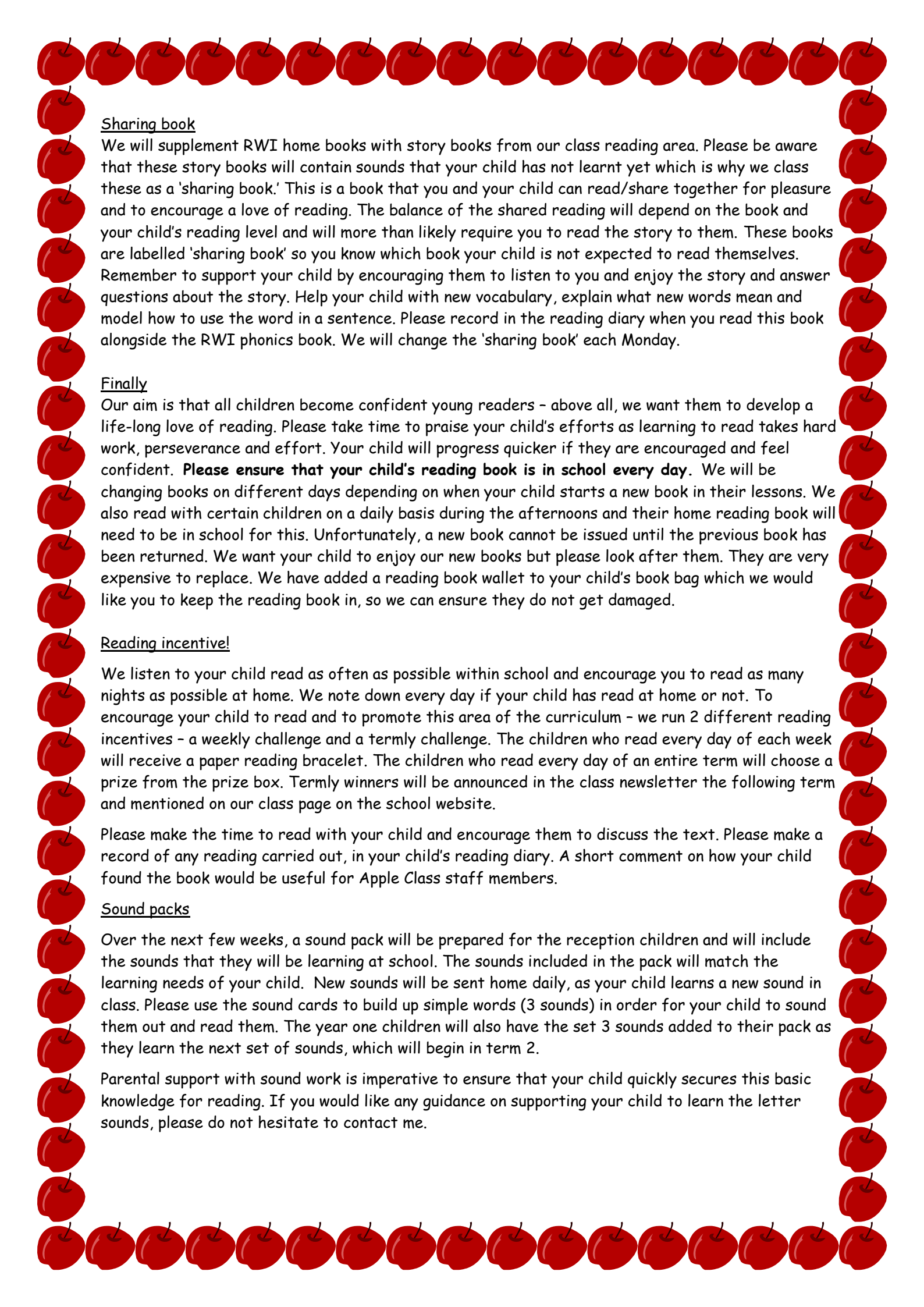
These will be your child's primary reading book. Depending on which RWI group your child is in, will depend on when your child receives a new reading book. The Year 1 children are working on the main RWI scheme, so they will take home a book that is 'thematically' linked to the book they have read in school. These home reader books contain words that your child will be able to phonetically decode along with red tricky words that your child needs to learn to read on sight. The children in Apple Class follow different schedules in their phonics lessons depending on which level they are working at. The Year 1 children currently follow a 3-day programme and will receive a new home reading book on the final day of each book they read in their Phonics lessons. Therefore, your child will receive a new home reading book every 3 days. We are asking for reading books and reading diaries to be in your child's school book bag **EVERY DAY** so we can check them each morning. The expectation is that your child reads every night and we will be collating the reading data according to this. We will mark the book as read or not read and then calculate the data at the end of the term. A part read book is still classed as read so even if you only get time to read a couple of pages, this will still support your child with their reading journey. Ideally, the whole book would be read each night, but a few pages is better than none.

Reading at home - what to do

Practise is key when learning to read. We would like your child to read each RWI book multiple times as this encourages confidence, fluency and understanding. In school, your child works through the programme using the same book for 3 or 5 days (depending on the level). When your child has finished a particular book in their phonics lessons, we will send the 'linked book' home. This will then be changed when your child finishes the next book in their lessons. This will mean that your child may have the same home reader for 3 or 5 days. On the first read (day 1) your child will **decode words** (sounding out). On the second read (day 2) they will **develop fluency** and by the third and final read (day 3) they can read for **pleasure and understanding** of the text. This is the system we use in school. Once your child can read their book fluently, they can practise using expression. It is important that you read and follow the guidance and explanation at the front of each reading book as this explains what to do when reading with your child. Try to establish a routine so that reading becomes part of your daily life.

Questions to answer

Comprehension (understanding) is very important and at the end of each book there are questions to talk about. Once your child reaches 'Yellow books' there is a second set of questions called 'Questions to read and answer'.



Sharing book

We will supplement RWI home books with story books from our class reading area. Please be aware that these story books will contain sounds that your child has not learnt yet which is why we class these as a 'sharing book.' This is a book that you and your child can read/share together for pleasure and to encourage a love of reading. The balance of the shared reading will depend on the book and your child's reading level and will more than likely require you to read the story to them. These books are labelled 'sharing book' so you know which book your child is not expected to read themselves. Remember to support your child by encouraging them to listen to you and enjoy the story and answer questions about the story. Help your child with new vocabulary, explain what new words mean and model how to use the word in a sentence. Please record in the reading diary when you read this book alongside the RWI phonics book. We will change the 'sharing book' each Monday.

Finally

Our aim is that all children become confident young readers - above all, we want them to develop a life-long love of reading. Please take time to praise your child's efforts as learning to read takes hard work, perseverance and effort. Your child will progress quicker if they are encouraged and feel confident. **Please ensure that your child's reading book is in school every day.** We will be changing books on different days depending on when your child starts a new book in their lessons. We also read with certain children on a daily basis during the afternoons and their home reading book will need to be in school for this. Unfortunately, a new book cannot be issued until the previous book has been returned. We want your child to enjoy our new books but please look after them. They are very expensive to replace. We have added a reading book wallet to your child's book bag which we would like you to keep the reading book in, so we can ensure they do not get damaged.

Reading incentive!

We listen to your child read as often as possible within school and encourage you to read as many nights as possible at home. We note down every day if your child has read at home or not. To encourage your child to read and to promote this area of the curriculum - we run 2 different reading incentives - a weekly challenge and a termly challenge. The children who read every day of each week will receive a paper reading bracelet. The children who read every day of an entire term will choose a prize from the prize box. Termly winners will be announced in the class newsletter the following term and mentioned on our class page on the school website.

Please make the time to read with your child and encourage them to discuss the text. Please make a record of any reading carried out, in your child's reading diary. A short comment on how your child found the book would be useful for Apple Class staff members.

Sound packs

Over the next few weeks, a sound pack will be prepared for the reception children and will include the sounds that they will be learning at school. The sounds included in the pack will match the learning needs of your child. New sounds will be sent home daily, as your child learns a new sound in class. Please use the sound cards to build up simple words (3 sounds) in order for your child to sound them out and read them. The year one children will also have the set 3 sounds added to their pack as they learn the next set of sounds, which will begin in term 2.

Parental support with sound work is imperative to ensure that your child quickly secures this basic knowledge for reading. If you would like any guidance on supporting your child to learn the letter sounds, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your child is required to bring their book bag into school every day, which should include their reading book, reading diary, sound folder and sound pack. Notices may be stuck into the reading diary so it is important they are in school.

Library books (Covid depending)

The children will have access to the Lincolnshire library van service. The library van stops outside the school and all of the children have the opportunity to choose a book to take home each time it visits. The Reception children will need to fill in a library card form (Please see the letter in your welcome pack). The children will go to the van, choose a book and then take it home until the next van visit. Children can then return them and swap them. (If your child already has a card, please bring it into school so we can photocopy it - this saves filling in a new form.)

KIRFS

Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) will be sent home with our termly class newsletter to let you know what our Maths focus will be for the term. This will begin in term 2. This will give you ideas of how you can help your child at home.

Morning routine

The morning routine this year will revert back to how it was pre Covid. The school gates will open at 8:35am each morning. The children will enter the school gates (without parents and carers). They will enter the classroom, place home reading books in the box each morning and staff will check reading diaries on a daily basis to see if your child read the previous night. The children will also put their coats and lunchboxes away. Book bags will be placed in their trays.

The school day for Apple Class finishes at 3:10pm. Please ensure that you are at the park gate on time to ensure your child does not get anxious if you are late. If you are running late, please phone the office so we can let your child know. It is also very important to return the list of people who are authorised to collect your child, as we cannot let them go with someone who is not on the list.

Attendance

At St Bartholomew's Primary School we are keen to ensure all children are in school at all times.



Obviously, there will be instances when your child will be ill and will be unable to come to school but we do ask that children attend unless they really are not up to it. We calculate attendance each week and reward the class with the highest percentage. Our school attendance mascot, Gerald the Giraffe, visits the class with the highest attendance. The children in Apple Class love receiving Gerald for the week so we would love to see you in school as much as possible!

PE

We are reverting back to the arrangements that were in place pre-Covid, which means your child will bring their PE kit to school on PE days and change in school before the lessons. Apple Class PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, although there may be other times during the week when your child may require their kit in school due to the weather etc. It may be useful for your child to bring their PE kit into school on a Monday morning and leave it in school on their designated peg until Friday afternoon, when the kit can be sent home (if desired). If your child has pierced ears can you please remove earrings on PE days.



Water bottle

A water bottle will be provided to the Reception children. This bottle is to be sent into school everyday containing fresh water so that your child can access a drink at their request. This bottle is to be filled with water (no squash or juice) and is to be placed in the water bottle tray each morning. The children will then take the bottle home at the end of the day so it can be washed and replaced with clean water. The first bottle is free of charge.

Free school meal entitlement

EYFS/KS1 children are entitled to a free hot/cold school meal. You will need to log in using your farm kitchen letter to choose the meal option in advance, so please ensure you have ordered meals in plenty of time, otherwise your child will need to bring in a packed lunch.

Allergies/Healthcare

If your child has an allergy or a specific medical need that we need to know about - please collect a healthcare questionnaire from the main office and fill out and return to school as soon as you can. This information will then be added to the allergy chart in class, so all staff are aware of your child's allergy/health requirement. (This may include asthma, eczema, food allergies, pet allergies, learning difficulties, autism, ADHD, sight/speech issues.)

Paper

Your child may come home with pieces of paper from the scrap paper tray - possibly with writing/activities on the reverse. Your child is using this paper to draw and write on or cut out in school. These activities are not being sent home to be completed - any work that is required to be done at home will be in the named home learning folder (sent home over the next few weeks).

Naming belongings

Please can I also take this opportunity to ask you to name ALL of your child's belongings as very often children tend to place their items on the wrong pegs etc and if they are named this will enable us to return them to the correct owner. Any clothing that is unnamed will get placed into lost property.

Communication

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Beresford. We communicate information as much as we can in Apple Class and we also encourage you to speak to us if you feel you need to. We send regular newsletters by email and sometimes send letters home in book bags so please check book bags and your email inbox on a regular basis.

We also have a school website that we use to communicate with parents. If you have not had chance to have a look, then please take a moment to browse the site. The Apple Class page is updated on a regular basis with photographs of learning activities, child-initiated learning and classroom displays. There is also a link to our Twitter page @AppleStBarts Please give us a follow to stay up to date with information. Make sure you give our school Facebook page a follow/like to stay up to date with school information and news too.



I hope this letter contains all the information you need to know, if you require any further information, please speak to an Apple Class team member.

Many thanks,

Miss Cannon Apple Class Teacher/Key Stage 1 Leader

Curriculum Information for Term 1

Literacy	<p><u>Phonics</u></p> <p>We follow the Read. Write Inc. programme to teach your child the sounds they need to know.</p>
	<p><u>Text</u></p> <p>The children will share different types of texts this term which will include fiction and non-fiction books about the topic as well as lots of story time sessions. If your child has any story books that they would like to share with their friends then please name them and send them in their book bags. All books will be returned.</p>
	<p><u>Spelling and Grammar</u></p> <p>The Year 1 children will receive spellings relating to the sounds they are learning. Please see homework folders for the correct spellings.</p>
Numeracy	The children will cover various objectives from the Maths curriculum. Please see Tapestry and the website for more information about our Maths learning.
Topic	The topic this term is 'What is so special about me?'. The children will have time to talk about themselves and share their interests in life. We will look at our bodies and discuss how to stay clean and healthy. The children will also compare how they were as a baby, to now and discuss the changes. In Science, we will look at the seasons and discuss changes across the seasons as well as look at the human body and label body parts.
Music	The children will explore the environment by looking for musical instruments and listening to different types of music. They will learn about beat, pulse and tempo.
ICT	The children will understand how to stay safe on the internet. The children will develop the confidence to use ICT resources in class. We will also discuss ICT uses outside of school. The children will also spend this term learning how to upload their own work onto Tapestry.
Art	This term we will look at drawing and research into Picasso.
Humanities	This term we will study History. We will compare how we are now to how we were as a baby. We will also talk about chronological order and explore timelines.
RE	The children will learn about people who belong to religious groups.
PE	The children will take part in 2 outdoor PE sessions per week this term. Outdoor PE - Games
PSHE	The children will be looking at the unit 'Beginning and Belonging' and will talk about ourselves and how we belong in our school community.

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