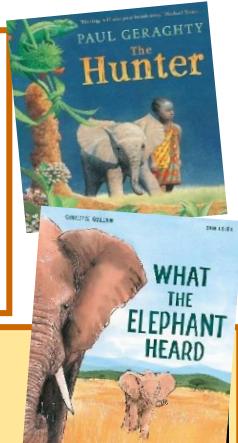


Curriculum Newsletter

Year 1 – Spring 2026

Key Texts – ‘The Hunter’ by Paul Geraghty and ‘What the Elephant Heard’ by Charlotte Guillian

The children will be taken on an exciting African adventure by a girl called Jamina! Her passion for elephants leads the children to learn about the importance of conservation and the damaging effect that humans are having on the natural savannah habitat. They will learn songs, chants and play unique African instruments to embrace the vibrant lifestyle and culture. Once equipped with enough scientific and geographical knowledge, they will be going out on safari and learning all about animals that live in the continent ‘Africa’.



Our learning journey this term is called ‘An African Adventure’.

We are geographers

Geography knowledge and skills will include:

- Name and locate some of the world’s seven continents and five oceans using atlases, globes, Google Earth and large floor maps.
- Compare and contrast a small area of the U.K with a contrasting non-European country using geographical vocabulary.
- Identify seasonal and daily weather changes in the U.K and the location of hot/cold areas of the world.
- Discuss the human and physical features of our local area and ‘Kenya’, a non –European country.



We are scientists

Science knowledge and skills will include:

- Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals and use and understand the vocabulary – ‘carnivore, herbivore and omnivore’.
- Notice that animals including humans grow into adults.
- Understand the basic needs of animals for survival.
- Identify that most living things live in habitats which they are suited to.
- Use the idea of simple food chains, identify and name different sources of food.

As historians we will:

History knowledge and skills will include:

- Explore simple changes within living memory in pupils’ own lives and the way of life of their family or others around them (African cultures).



English

Grammar

- Continue to build on use of sentence punctuation correctly such as capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.
- Spell words correctly using phonics and make phonetically plausible attempts at unknown words.
- To add suffixes to root words where the root word spelling remains unchanged for example: -ing, -ed, -es and -s.

Children will focus on spellings linked to the sounds and spelling choices they have covered in their phonics sessions.

Writing

- Continue to say a sentence out loud before writing it.
- Use clear letter shapes and sizes in writing.
- Form capital letters correctly and match them to their lower-case letters.
- Develop speaking and listening skills in performance poetry.
- Sequence sentences to create a story narrative.
- Use labels and sub-headings to create a simple non-fiction leaflet about elephants.

Maths

- Count forwards in ones to 20 and beyond. Count backwards down to 0 from 20.
- Order numbers up to 20 including solving missing number problems.
- Read and write numbers up to 100 as numerals and begin to read and write as words.
- Understand $+$ $-$ $=$ symbols and record number sentence using these.
- Add or subtract 2 single digit numbers using equipment where needed.
- Know number bonds for addition and subtraction to 20.
- Solve some simple one step problems including addition, subtraction, doubling, halving and sharing.
- Count up in 2s, 5s and 10s, spotting patterns in the numbers.
- Know and use words relating to days, weeks, months and read o’clock times on analogue clock.
- Recognise and name 2D and 3D shapes.

Use objects at home to practically count, order, add and subtract numbers to 10 and 20.



PSHRE

We will be exploring friendships, families and people who help us. Through our journey we will discuss belonging to a community and cultural differences.

Music – Knowledge and Skills

We will be listening to African music and discussing how it makes us feel. We will also create our own sequence of sounds by repeating rhythmic and melodic patterns using African drums and percussion instruments. Throughout the journey we will learn a number of traditional African call and response chants.

Art – Knowledge and skills

We will research a variety of African art techniques such as Kitenge and Ankara fabric printing. We will continue to experiment with our painting and skills when producing images of African animals.

Rights Respecting Schools

Article 14 – You have a right to your own beliefs.
 Article 12 – You have the right to your own opinion.
 Article 24 – I have the right to food and clean water.
 Article 27 – The right to be safe.

Computing – Knowledge and Skills

We will explore Africa using Google Earth and use 'Kiddle' to research elephants. We will be exploring algorithms using Beebots and computer programs.

Physical Education – Knowledge and skills

Tennis – we will be developing our co-ordination when hitting a ball with a racket.
 Dance – we will move imaginatively to create patterns of movements and perform African dances.
 Rugby Tots – building on team skills, playing in a 'zone', fair rules and throwing with one or both hands.

PE days – Monday and Tuesday

DT – Knowledge and skills

We will be designing and making a purposeful object. We will create simple drawings with labels, use joining techniques to assemble our final product and finally, evaluate it.

RE – Knowledge and skills

We will continue to explore Christianity, its key celebrations, and stories in comparison to other religions. Learn about the life and work of people who have been motivated or inspired by their faith.

• Nelson Mandela • Desmond Tutu

Supporting learning at home

Your child will be set phonics and maths homework on a Thursday, this should be returned by Thursday morning. Your child may also be given small additional tasks to target specific areas of learning.



Reading

Children are strongly encouraged to read some of their home reading book **every night** and change on the set days. They have the opportunity to change their reading book on a **Monday and Thursday**. This should be recorded in their reading record book as should any additional reading undertaken at home. It is important to take time to discuss the book and ensure that your child has a good understanding of the text as well as being able to decode the words and read with increasing fluency. Re-reading sections of the book or the whole book again will allow them to increase their fluency and confidence. It is also imperative that **you read to your child** and share other stories and books at home to develop their love of reading and extend their vocabulary knowledge.



To support your child, as they progress in our Supersonic Phonics programme, they will receive newsletters outlining the sounds they have been learning and the next group of sounds they will be focusing on. Please reinforce your child's understanding of these sounds by practising reading and writing the words shown. Any practising may be brought into school and celebrated with their class.

Statutory Phonics Screening

The children in Year 1 will be completing the statutory phonics screening during the summer term 2026. They will continue to participate in daily phonics lessons in school as well as opportunities to further embed phonics during lessons. Please support your child at home to practise their phonics skills by reading words in the environment, reading their home reading book regularly as well as sharing other stories, magazines and texts.

Key dates:

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day
 Friday 13th March - Mother's Day Celebration
 Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th March - Parents Evening
 Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day
 Friday 27th March – Easter Bonnet Parade

