

# The Gruffalo



## CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER YEAR 1: 1ST HALF AUTUMN TERM

This newsletter is designed to give parents and carers a taste of the coming topic for Year 1. We have detailed below the main themes that we hope to cover, although there may be changes to respond to the children's ideas and interests. Some subjects will have a greater share of time depending on the topic but we ensure that there is a balance over the year. We hope you find this newsletter useful!

STIMULUS: Well loved story books and a Gruffalo visit!

Annual Events: Harvest concert for OAPs; Harvest for the children with the Junior School at the church, Gambia Day. (Please see the website for dates).

### LITERACY:

In writing we are covering three genres: in fiction we are writing Gruffalo stories; in non fiction we will write recounts of our school trip. We will also listen to rhyming poetry and books, particularly those by Julia Donaldson, and writing colour poems.

We will also be sending home a Word Wizard booklet each half term full of ideas and activities to help you child learn the basics in literacy.

### MATHEMATICS:

We will be using lots of play and exploration around the theme of weight, especially linked to cooking. Basic mathematics teaching follows the National Curriculum.

### SCIENCE:

The key skills are about Animals and People and exploring Seasonal Change. What is the same and what is different? We will use our senses, find out about animals, their structure and the human body.

### ART:

There will be opportunities to explore different materials and textures and how they can be combined into collaged Gruffalo characters. Children will do observational

drawings of natural autumnal items and have a chance to explore printing textures linked to the topic.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

We follow the Essex agreed syllabus for RE. The theme is 'Special People'. We will find out about Hinduism and Christianity, and especially the life of Jesus.

### DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:

Children will learn how to use a simple recipe and make their own Gruffalo Cake! Mmmmm! They will also explore a range of joining techniques and make a Gruffalo character puppet.

### MUSIC:

We will be exploring a range of musical elements following the Essex Charagra Music scheme and learning topic related songs. We will also be preparing for Harvest.

### PE:

Games skills using the outdoors while the weather is fine, and then in the hall if wet or chilly. We follow the Essex PE scheme for this.

### GEOGRAPHY:

We will be identifying what places are like and where they are, especially thinking about woodlands and forests

as seen in the story. The children will be introduced to using and following simple maps and plans.

### PSHE:

We are following units of work about 'Rules and Responsibilities' which link well to starting back at school in new classes.

### COMPUTING

In computing we will be teaching the children about the importance of accurate instructions, both on and away from computers!

N.B. Key ICT skills are taught as part of cross curricular work. In some subjects we will be following schemes of work which are not directly linked to the topic such as reading, spelling, handwriting, grammar, RE and mathematics.

*Don't forget you can help at home with daily reading, learning Buzz Words, playing maths games and using the 'Espresso', 'Purple Mash' and 'Oxford Owl' websites.*