

Year 1 | Curriculum Overview

Educational Visits

Educational Visit 1	Educational Visit 2	Educational Visit 3
Black Country Museum: Terrific Toys	Birmingham Conservation Park	Singer's Hill Synagogue
<p>Year 1 will visit the Black Country Living Museum for the "Terrific Toys" workshop, linking to their history topic on how toys have changed. Children will handle toys from the past and compare them with the ones they play with today.</p> <p>This hands-on experience helps them understand how childhood has changed over generations in a fun and memorable way.</p> <p>The trip will bring history to life and encourage children to ask questions and share their own family stories about favourite toys.</p>	<p>Before starting their new science topic on animals, Year 1 will be going to Birmingham Conservation Park.</p> <p>The children will have the chance to see a wide variety of animals in their habitats, from reptiles and birds to mammals and fish.</p> <p>Watching how these animals look, move and behave will give pupils a real experience to draw on when they later learn about classification, diets and habitats in class.</p> <p>This visit is designed to spark curiosity and make their science learning more exciting and memorable.</p>	<p>As part of their RE learning, Year 1 will visit a synagogue to explore how it is a special place for Jewish people.</p> <p>The children will see features such as the Torah scrolls, prayer space and special clothing, and learn how these help Jewish people feel close to God.</p> <p>Experiencing the synagogue in person will bring their classroom lessons to life and help them understand why faith communities value places of worship.</p> <p>The visit also encourages children to reflect on their own special places and why belonging matters to everyone.</p>

Geography

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Our area: What is it like here?	Weather: What is the weather like in the UK?	Place study: What is it like to live in Shanghai?
Explores the school and local area by using maps and photographs to recognise features and describe where we live.	Introduces the seasons and daily weather, showing how climate shapes life, clothing and activities across the country.	Locates China on a world map and compares life in Shanghai with the UK, identifying similarities and differences in human and physical features.

History

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Personal history: How am I making history?	Social history: How have toys changed?	Exploration: How have explorers changed the world?
Identifies similarities and differences between childhood then and now, explains how events are remembered, and places photographs in personal timelines.	Asks questions about toys, sequences artefacts, and explains changes over time using relevant vocabulary.	Names key explorers and their achievements, sequences historical events, and explains how exploration has changed.

Science

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Seasonal Changes	Everyday Materials	Animals Including Humans: Sensitive Bodies	Animals Including Humans: Comparing Animals	Plants: Introduction to Plants
Observes seasonal patterns and explores changes in day length and weather.	Explores, names, and compares materials based on simple physical properties.	Names body parts and associates them with the senses.	Identifies and groups common animals, including diets and structures.	Identifies and names common plants and describes basic plant parts.

Art & Design

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Drawing: Exploring line and shape	Painting and mixed media: Colour splash	Sculpture and 3D: Paper play
Introduces a range of lines and patterns using different materials, developing control and awareness of line types to create detail and texture.	Explores primary and secondary colours through mixing and printing, applying knowledge of colour to create expressive painted patterns.	Develops skills in rolling, folding and shaping paper to make imaginative 3D forms, applying joining techniques and painting in three dimensions.

Design & Technology

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Mechanisms: Making a moving storybook	Textiles: Puppets	Cooking and nutrition: Smoothies
Introduces sliders as mechanisms, showing how movement can be created in different directions through labelled designs and functional storybook pages.	Develops skills in cutting, joining and decorating fabrics using templates to produce puppets that match the planned design.	Explores fruit and vegetables, selecting and preparing ingredients to make smoothies that meet a design brief.

Computing

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Computing systems and networks: Improving mouse skills	Programming 1: Algorithms unplugged	Creating media: Digital imagery	Programming 2: Virtual Bee-Bot	Online safety
Develops purposeful computer use by learning to log in, navigate, and use mouse control to create and edit digital artwork.	Introduces algorithms, inputs, and outputs through practical, unplugged activities, enabling pupils to write, follow, and debug simple programs.	Teaches planning, taking, editing, and organising photographs, including importing and arranging images to create a final visual story.	Builds sequencing and problem-solving skills by programming a virtual Bee-Bot, creating demonstration videos, and debugging instructions.	Explores safe internet use, managing emotions online, showing kindness, and making responsible decisions about sharing and screen time.

Religious Education

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6
Christianity: What do Christians believe about God?	Christianity: What gifts might Christians have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than Bethlehem?	Judaism: Who is God to the Jews?	Christianity: Why was Jesus welcomed like a king or celebrity by the crowds on Palm Sunday?	Judaism: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?	Judaism: Does visiting the synagogue help Jewish children feel closer to God?
Explores how Christians believe God created the world and gave life its beauty and purpose, introducing the bridge concept of creativity as a way to reflect divine power	Considers the Christian nativity story through the lens of giving, exploring how the birth of Jesus is understood as God's gift to the world and how Christians express gratitude and generosity.	Introduces Jewish beliefs about God through the story of Abraham, highlighting the idea of promise as a sacred bond that shapes identity, faith, and belonging.	Explores the events of Palm Sunday and how Christians remember Jesus as a king, using the bridge of celebration to understand how joyful traditions express deep spiritual meaning.	Examines how Jewish families observe Shabbat, showing how the bridge of rest supports spiritual wellbeing, community, and a connection to God.	Investigates how visiting the synagogue helps Jewish children feel closer to God, using the bridge of community to understand the value of shared worship, learning, and identity.

Physical Education

Unit 1	Unit 3	Unit 5	Unit 7	Unit 9	Unit 11
Attack Defend Shoot Unit 1	Attack Defend Shoot Unit 2	Send and Return Unit 1	Send and Return Unit 2	Hit Catch Run Unit 1	Hit Catch Run Unit 2
Practise basic movements and competitive games, developing decision-making, teamwork, and attack/defend skills.	Apply simple invasion game strategies, focusing on defending positions, adapting to game changes, and cooperation.	Send and return objects with improved confidence, movement to return, and basic net/wall game play.	Develop sending skills, tracking, intercepting, and applying tactics to beat opponents in net/wall games.	Hit, track, and retrieve balls; throw and catch accurately; develop teamwork in striking and fielding games.	Refine striking and fielding tactics, including catching, positioning, and decision-making in gameplay.
Unit 2	Unit 4	Unit 6	Unit 8	Unit 10	Unit 12
Gymnastics Unit 1	Gymnastics Unit 2	Dance Unit 1	Dance Unit 2	Run Jump Throw Unit 1	Run Jump Throw Unit 2
Learn and perform simple gymnastics actions and shapes, developing balance, tension, and safe apparatus use.	Develop point balances, twists, rocks, rolls, unison and canon techniques with control and confidence.	Explore movement, space, and partner work to music, creating actions that convey friendship.	Compose and perform simple movement patterns using canon, formations, and group coordination.	Children link running and jumping skills, refine throwing techniques, and take part in simple competitions to develop speed, distance, and control.	This unit builds stamina, core strength, and agility while encouraging collaboration to enhance running, jumping, and throwing performance.

Personal, Social & Health Education

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 11
Behaviour: Building Our Best Selves	Online Safety: Navigating Our Digital World	Anti-Bullying: Standing Up, Speaking Out	Conflict Resolution: Solving Problems Together	Safeguarding: Finding Safe People and Places	Transition: Ready for What's Next
Through exploring rules, routines, kindness, and respectful behaviour, learners see how these choices create a safe, happy community where everyone can flourish.	Protecting personal information, recognising unsafe situations, balancing screen time, and showing kindness online are key skills pupils develop in this unit.	By learning what bullying is and is not, children gain the confidence to use school systems for help and to be inclusive, supportive friends.	This unit equips pupils to listen to others' feelings, follow fair steps to solve disagreements, and involve a peer mediator when needed.	Learners are guided to identify safe adults and spaces, understand personal boundaries, recognise neglect, and persist in asking for help until they are heard.	Reflecting on achievements, exploring new spaces and routines, meeting a new teacher, and practising coping strategies help prepare learners for the year ahead.
Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	
Families and Relationships: Growing Together	Health and Wellbeing: Caring for Body and Mind	Safety and the Changing Body: Staying Safe Everywhere	Citizenship: Belonging and Making a Difference	Economic Wellbeing: Money Matters	
Exploring family life, healthy friendships, recognising emotions, and resolving difficulties helps children strengthen the bonds they share with others.	In this unit, pupils build self-awareness, celebrate strengths, practise healthy routines, and understand how hygiene, rest, and sun safety protect health.	Keeping safe with adults, responding in emergencies, handling substances carefully, and avoiding hazards at home form the core learning of this theme.	Children learn to care for animals, meet the needs of others, value similarities and differences, join groups, and appreciate how democracy works.	Discovering the role of money in daily life, ways to keep it safe, and the world of saving, spending, and jobs inspires financial awareness.	

Music

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Keeping the Pulse (My Favourite Things)	Sound Patterns (Fairytale)	Pitch (Superheroes)
Children begin by developing a sense of steady beat, showing the pulse through movement, clapping and simple instrumental patterns which help them perform with others.	Exploration of rhythm follows, as pupils create and copy sound patterns using their voices and instruments, experimenting with dynamics to bring story characters to life.	Later in the year they investigate high and low sounds, combining pitch and tempo changes to invent short melodies and perform them with expression.

French

Pathway 2
First conversations
Pupils start to join in with simple exchanges, learning to say their names, share how they feel, count to ten and talk about days of the week.

Additional Learning

Unit 1	Unit 3	Unit 5	Unit 7
St George's Day	Eid Learning	Local History	Refugee
Children discover that St George is the patron saint of England and learn why his day is celebrated on 23rd April. They explore the story of his bravery and reflect on the values of courage and loyalty that still inspire people today.	Through stories and discussion, children learn how Muslims fast during Ramadan and celebrate with special meals at Eid. They begin to understand the importance of family, faith and generosity, growing in respect for beliefs and traditions that are different to their own.	Exploring the Birmingham Botanical Gardens allows children to see how green spaces have long been valued in their local community. They come to appreciate the role such places play in bringing people together and in protecting the natural world around them.	Through stories and role-play, children begin to understand what it means to be a refugee and how it feels to arrive somewhere completely new. They reflect on how small acts of kindness and friendship can help others feel safe, valued and welcome.
Unit 2	Unit 4	Unit 6	Unit 8
Sustainability	Science Day	Shakespeare	Together, We Belong
By learning how to care for a garden, children discover the importance of nurturing plants and green spaces. They begin to see how even small actions, like watering and tending, can help the environment and teach responsibility for God's creation.	Pupils take part in a fun, hands-on science experiment where they test predictions and see how exciting discovery can be. This sparks curiosity, builds resilience when things do not go to plan, and shows the joy of asking questions about how the world works.	Listening to the story of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , children encounter themes of love, family and conflict in a way that captures their imagination. They are encouraged to think about how kindness, forgiveness and peace can make a difference in their own relationships.	Celebrating the fact that families come in many different forms, pupils explore drawings and stories that show the importance of love and care. They learn that everyone has a place to belong, and that respecting difference helps build stronger communities.