



YEAR ONE TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2026

Roots, Shoots and Muddy Boots

(6 weeks)



This topic is largely based around science and art. We will learn to describe the different parts of a plant, such as its roots, stem, leaves and flowers and explain their functions. In art, we will use pastels to imitate the famous 'Sunflowers' picture by Van Gogh. In addition, each child will plant their own sunflower seed and, throughout the topic, they will need to make sure that it is getting the right things to allow it to grow. The focus text in literacy is the wonderful story 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark'.

At the end of our topic, you are invited to our 'Fab Finish', which will be a plant sale. This is where you will be able to purchase your child's sunflower and artwork, all for a small donation (to be confirmed nearer the time). Any money raised from the plant sale, will be reinvested in Year One. The plant sale will take place on **Thursday 21st May**. If you cannot make our plant sale but would like to buy your child's items, you can send the money into school on the day with your child and we will send the items home with them.

Home Learning Activity

There are many activities that you could do to support our topic at home. Below are a few ideas to get you started:

- Using some of the ideas and characters from your favourite stories about animals, you could write your own adventure story. You do not have to write the whole story all at once. You may like to take each part of the story a day at a time. You can either write the story on paper or type it on the computer. When you have finished your story, you could also illustrate it and make it a front cover.
- You could try some planting of your own at home and write instructions about what you have planted. You could take photos of what you have planted and tell us all about it.

We always love to see what you have been doing at home and each child will receive a certificate for any home learning completed. Please can you send in your child's home learning by **Friday 15th May** at the latest.

PE – Dance and Athletics

In dance, we will use music to help the children create expressive dance routines. In outdoor PE, we follow a scheme called 'Get Set 4 PE' which is fully aligned to the National Curriculum and Ofsted requirements and it focuses on the development of agility, balance and coordination and cooperative learning.

Penguins: Indoor – Wednesday Outdoor – Thursday

Dolphins: Indoor – Thursday Outdoor – Wednesday

Turtles: Indoor – Thursday Outdoor – Wednesday



Your child's PE bag will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed. Please ensure that a full kit is provided, including shorts for gymnastics and dance and long tracksuit bottoms for when the children complete games outside. **Any earrings must be removed on PE days and long hair must always be tied back.**

PSHE and Religion and Worldviews

This term, our PSHE work will focus on 'Relationships'. The children will learn about understanding friendships and other relationships, including with their family. They will also consider how to resolve conflicts and develop their communication skills. We will continue linking the lessons to our school values of trust, excellence, aspiration, collaboration and honesty, alongside the rights and responsibilities of the class charter. The children's new Trick Box trick will be 'Lightbulb' (creative thinking and problem-solving). In Religion and Worldviews this half term, the children will be learning about Islam. They will focus on the three core parts of a religion – God (Allah), the special book (Qur'an) and the special place (Mosque),

Supporting at Home

We are so incredibly proud of the children and the hard work that they are putting into their learning. We know that this is due to the partnership we have formed with you as parents and carers. Please continue to read with your child **at least 3 times a week and record this in their reading record** and also continue to complete the weekly home learning challenges. If you're unsure about how to support your child with their learning at home, please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be more than willing to help and support you.

Focus Author

This term, we will focus on the author Atinuke, who is the writer of the stories about Anna Hibiscus and Tola.



Calendar Dates

Monday 27th April – FOAA Movie Night (4:30pm – 6:00pm)

Monday 27th April – Upton Country Park trip (Turtles in the morning; Dolphins in the afternoon)

Thursday 30th April – New volunteer meeting in school

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 6th May – Upton Country Park trip (Penguins in the morning)

Wednesday 6th May – Year 1 Phonics Check Parent Meeting (2:15pm – 2:45pm at Ad Astra Infant School and 5pm at Canford Heath Infant School)

Thursday 7th May – Beachwise workshop

Monday 11th May – FOAA PTA Disco

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd May – Walk to School Week

Thursday 21st May – Year 1 Plant Sale (after school)

Monday 25th May until Friday 29th May – Half term

If you have any questions about our learning please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Mr Watt, Mrs Warner, Mrs Adams Mrs Blake-McKeown