

YEAR 1 TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2026

Paddington's Party (5 weeks)

During this topic, the children will be immersed in the story of Paddington. When the children arrive at school on the Monday morning, they will be given a bus ticket. We will then use our imagination, videos, maps and pictures to enjoy our very own bus tour around the city of London. This will lead into our focus for our English lessons, where the children will be learning facts about famous landmarks in London and thinking about how to use adjectives in character descriptions about Paddington and the Brown family. In maths, we will be continuing to learn how to subtract numbers to 10, before moving onto place value to up 20 and learning the names of 2D and 3D shapes. In geography, the children will be learning about the United Kingdom, the countries within it and their capital cities. We will also learn about significant people and key historical events which have happened in London, including Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot, the Royal Family and Remembrance Day. Please see our key knowledge fact sheets which accompany this email.



At the end of the topic, the children will share their stories and other learning with the other children in their class at a tea party. **On this day, we invite your child to come into school dressed up in party clothes.**

Tea Party: Wednesday 25th November

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:

- You could visit your local library and see what Paddington stories they have for you to share together. You could take pictures of your child enjoying the stories and encourage them to write sentences about which stories they liked and why.
- You could encourage your child to draw, paint or make with playdough their favourite character from Paddington.
- Paddington loves marmalade sandwiches! You could assist your child to make their favourite sandwich and then take pictures and encourage them to write sentences about what they have made and why.

We look forward to seeing the children's fantastic home learning. Each child will be able to share their home learning with the class and receive a certificate for their participation.

Please can you send in your child's home learning at the latest by **Thursday 26th November 2026.**

PE – Gymnastics, Dance, Games

This term, in indoor PE, we will be improving our dance skills. In outdoor games, we follow a scheme called 'Get Set 4 PE', which is fully aligned to the National Curriculum and Ofsted requirements, and focuses on the development of agility, balance and coordination and cooperative learning.



Penguins: Indoor PE – Wednesday Outdoor PE – Thursday

Dolphins: Indoor PE – Wednesday Outdoor PE – Thursday

Turtles: Indoor PE – Thursday Outdoor PE – Wednesday

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 & Religion and Worldviews

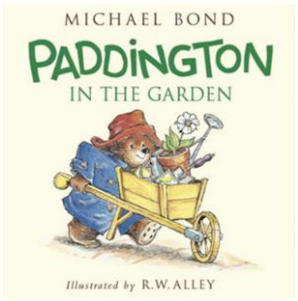
This half term, the focus for our PSHE lessons will be 'Celebrating Differences'. These sessions will be taught in whole class sessions, circle times and assemblies. In Religion and Worldviews, the children will continue to learn about Christianity and The Christmas Story.

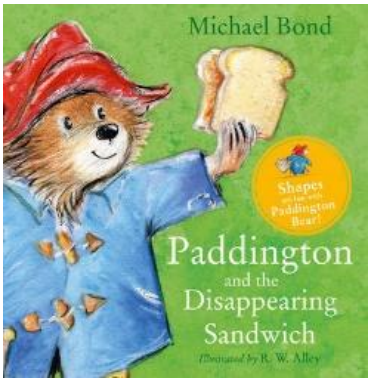
Jingle Bells – Final 2 weeks of the term

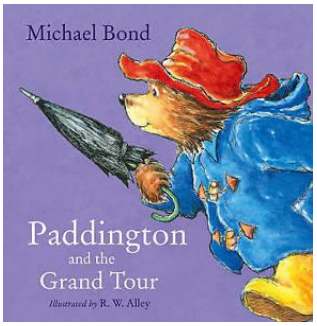
We will spend the last two weeks of the autumn term engaging in Christmas/winter themed lesson activities. Our main focus will be our Nativity performance (dates below).

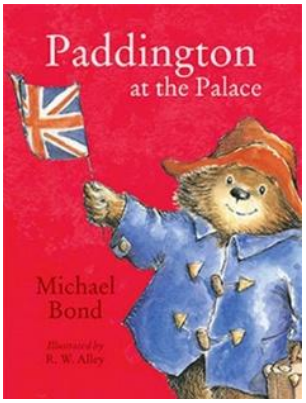
Focus Author

This half term, our focus author is Michael Bond, the author of Paddington Bear's adventure stories. Please do read books by Michael Bond and discuss the adventures that Paddington has with your child.









Calendar Dates

Monday 2nd November – *Paddington Sparkly Starter (children only)*

Tuesday 3rd November – *Ad Astra Infant School's Open Evening for prospective parents*

Friday 6th November – *Non-uniform day for PTA Christmas Hamper Donation*

Friday 6th November – *'Sparks in the Dark' Fireworks Evening at Haymoor Junior School*

Wednesday 11th November – *Remembrance Day assembly*

Thursday 12th November – *Flu nasal sprays*

Monday 16th November – *Choose Respect Day – wear odd socks*

Friday 13th November – *Children in Need – non-uniform*

Wednesday 25th November – *Year 1 Paddington Tea Party - non-uniform (party clothes day, children only)*

Friday 27th & Monday 30th November – *INSET Days – school closed*

Thursday 3rd December – *Year 1 and Year 2 watching a show (at Haymoor)*

Wednesday 9th December – *Year 1 Christmas shop*

Friday 11th December – *Christmas lunch and jumper day*

Tuesday 15th December – *Dolphins' Nativity Performance*

Wednesday 16th December – *Penguins' Nativity Performance*

Thursday 17th December – *Turtles' Nativity Performance*

Friday 18th December – *Non-school uniform Christmas party day*

If you have any questions about your child's learning journey, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Watt, Mrs Warner, Mrs Blake-McKeown and Mrs Adams