

Year 1 Overview Autumn 2026

	In class your child will...	At home you could...
Science		
Materials	This unit will allow children to explore a variety of common materials. Children will investigate the properties of different materials and understand how they can categorise them. They will develop their investigating skills through completing simple experiments.	<i>Complete a material hunt around the house, asking your child to find a variety of materials. Discuss why objects in the home are made from particular materials.</i>
Seasons	In addition to the above, Year 1 will learn about seasons throughout the year.	<i>Discuss changes that you notice as the seasons change.</i>
Computing		
Programming	Children will be introduced to the word 'algorithm'. They will use a programmable floor robot called a Bee-Bot, to learn about directional language and programming. They will create and debug simple programs.	<i>Check your child knows their left and right! Take turns hiding an object in a room and give simple directions to each other to find it.</i>
Religious Education		
What does it mean to belong to a faith or belief community?	In this unit, children will be learning about the importance of belonging to a community, for Christians, Jews and non-religious people. They will explore symbols and meanings, religious ceremonies, artefacts, and stories across these religions and beliefs. Children will also consider what it means to belong in their community here at Willand and understand the importance of working together to achieve great things.	<i>Explore the sense 'belonging in a community' with your child, and help them to identify special people, objects or symbols, stories, places and celebrations within their family. Discuss why they are important to your family.</i>
History		
Significant People Who should we remember, Mary Seacole or Florence Nightingale?	Children will explore the vocabulary used to describe the passing of time. They will learn about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and why they are still remembered today. They will begin to work as young historians, considering how Florence and Mary's lives were the same or different and how their achievements led to lasting changes over time.	<i>Share with your child family photographs and talk about the 'story' behind the photos. Work out the age of family members and sequence who is the oldest or youngest. Discuss any events that you celebrate or commemorate within your own family.</i>
Geography		
Where are we? (Our Local Area)	We will be improving our understanding of where we are in the world through exploring our local area, studying a range of maps and identifying human and physical features of Willand. We will use the words village, town and city to describe known places in Devon and beyond. We will name our country and region and make simple maps.	<i>Look at maps together. Can you find a key? What colour are oceans, rivers or land? Can you draw a simple map of the area around your home? Discuss the difference between villages, towns and cities.</i>
Design Technology		
Where does food come from?	Children will learn that food either comes from a plant or animal. They will look at how food gets from farm to fork and consider the importance of making healthy food choices. They will choose and use a range of ingredients, tools and skills to design, make and evaluate their own sandwich/wrap. This unit links to our PSHE and Science curriculum.	<i>Talk about the different food on your plates at mealtimes. Discuss whether it came from an animal or plant. Involve your child where possible in preparing their own snacks/meals and talk about the importance of healthy eating.</i>
Art		
Clay pinch pots	Children will be learning about sculpture and making a clay pinch pot.	<i>If you can, make some playdough at home and encourage your child to explore moulding, shaping and rolling it.</i>

Music		
My Musical Heartbeat Dance, Sing, Play!	Children will learn about the interrelated dimensions of music through games and singing. This includes learning about rhythm, pitch and pulse.	<i>Listen to different types of music. Help your child identify the instruments they can hear. Can your child clap to the pulse (the steady heartbeat) of the song? Try clapping a simple rhythm pattern and ask your child to repeat back to you.</i>
Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)		
Making friends: playing and learning together Mental health and wellbeing	Children will learn how to listen, share, work cooperatively, and when and how to ask for permission. Children will learn about friendships, including falling out and how to recognise bullying. Children will be supported to notice and name different types of feelings and thoughts – and learn simple self-regulation strategies to manage them.	<i>In school children have made a ‘helping hand’ so they know who they can talk to share any worries. Talk to your child about what makes them special and help them understand that we are all unique. Ask your child who is on their helping hand so they can remember the people they can talk to if they need to share any problems or worries.</i>
Physical Education (PE)		
Team Building and Outdoor Adventurous Activity Gymnastics	Children will be exploring team building physical activities. They will learn to co-operate and communicate with a partner to solve challenges. They will develop their teamwork skills. Children will explore using space to travel in different ways from high to low and how to combine travelling actions together to create a short sequence. Children will explore balancing and jumping on different apparatus.	<i>Create outdoor challenges, perhaps on the walk to school, encourage jumping with two feet together, skipping, hopping, balancing on one foot etc.</i>