

Weekly Learning Letter

9th January 2026

Happy New Year!

We hope that you had a lovely Christmas break with some time for rest. The children have returned to school with so much enthusiasm and are excited about the term ahead.

This half term our topic is 'Toys' and we will be answering the big question: Are new toys always better than old toys?

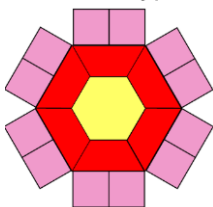
We have two educational visits planned:

- Wild Cat Wilderness
 - Thursday 22nd January - Ladybirds
 - Thursday 29th January - Butterflies
 - Thursday 5th February - Treefrogs
- Dulwich Picture Gallery
 - Wednesday 4th March - Treefrogs and Butterflies
 - Thursday 5th March - Ladybirds

We kindly ask that you make the voluntary contribution towards the educational visits by the deadline stated in the letter. If we do not receive sufficient contributions by this date, we may unfortunately have to cancel the visits.

Our learning this week

Maths



We have been making patterns with pattern blocks, thinking about how shapes can be rotated to create pictures. We have explored making repeated patterns with shapes and had a go at creating a radiating pattern – starting with a shape in the middle and growing the pattern around the outside.

English



Traction Man is here! The children made predictions about the story, thinking about what adventures Traction Man would go on. They used role play to explore the story book language to say what the characters were doing, e.g. Traction Man was in the classroom getting ready to save the children from...!

History

We talked about toys and why toys are important. The children talked and wrote about their favourite toys. Talk to your child/ren about the toys you played with when you were their age. Were they the same or different?

Home learning ideas:

For home learning, you could...

Phonics:

Phonics sounds & Tricky words, in preparation for the new term.

| | Sounds | Tricky Words |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Jayne's Group | ir (bird) ie (pie) ue (blue, rescue) u (unicorn) | Their people oh your |
| Kate's Group | ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow oi | |
| Rhiannon's Group | Ai ee igh oa oo ar or ow oi ear | I the put pull full |
| Sarah's Group | Recapping graphemes: qu sh th ch ng nk ai ee igh oa oo oo ow or er ur ow oi ear air | the I go no of you said so have |

Practise reading your phonics book with an adult at home and return to school by the following Wednesday.

Maths

Go on a shape hunt at home or when you are out and about. Which shapes are easy to find? Which shapes are harder to find?

Have a go at making a picture with shapes:



Year 1



Toy Learning Letter

English



Make a poster about your favourite toy. Add labels to your poster. What can your toy do? What does it come with? Does it do anything amazing? Why do you like it?

Resources

We are still in need of resources to enhance the children's learning, especially in our outdoor area. Some of the items we require include:

funnels/ measuring cylinders

jigsaw puzzles

Small world animals

junk modelling

Construction equipment e.g. duplo, sticklebricks

If you have any items you'd like to donate, please kindly pass them on to your child's class teacher.

Thank you

Have a brilliant weekend!

The Year One Team