



# Robin's class- Year 1

## Newsletter:

### Tales from the Harvest




Dear Parents or Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer, Mrs Johnson and I are so pleased to be back with the Robins and getting stuck into our new year. We are switching from using Tapestry to an app called DOJO and look forward to sharing with you the exciting activities we have planned this term. You will get an email to connect to your child's DOJO account in the next week.

Year 1 is the first year of the National Curriculum and just like the rest of the school, we will be learning lots of new subjects in our class. In Hindon School we teach our foundation subjects in blocks. These blocks run over a 1-2 week period, allowing children to explore subjects deeply while leaving room for curiosity. This term, our theme is "Tales from the Harvest", where your little ones will explore farming past and present, harvest celebrations, and the seasonal world around them. Children will discover how farming shapes our lives while enjoying stories, creativity, music, and hands-on learning.

Although we follow a themed topic, we maintain a play-based curriculum and use our continuous provision approach, which is responsive to the children's interests. Children have Discovery Time (child-led learning time) at set times throughout the day, where they can explore activities within our engaging continuous provision environment. We value child-led learning, giving children the time and space to investigate, create, and explore at their own pace.



#### How We Learn Each Day

In Year 1, we follow a structured yet engaging daily routine:

- Mornings: Daily phonics, maths, and English sessions to build essential reading, writing, and number skills.
- Afternoons: Focused topic learning in 1-2 week blocks:

Week:	Subject:	Focus:
1	PSHE	Friendships, feelings, and special people
2-3	Science	Farm animals, their babies, and food chains
4-5	History	Farming and harvest traditions past & present; comparing tools, methods, and celebrations
6-7	DT	Making harvest food for our Harvest family lunch and sewing a felted seasonal crown
8-9	Geography	Seasons, weather, and where our food comes from
10-11	Art	Painting harvest scenes and observing seasonal plants & animals
12	ICT	Exploring rhythms, beats, and creating digital harvest artwork
13-14	PSHE	Valuing differences



We also have weekly RE and Music lessons.



## What We'll Be Learning

### PSHE

First half term: Learning about friendship, kindness, fairness, and caring for others.

Second half term: Valuing differences- people, religions, homes, families

### Science – Animals and Farming

Identifying animals, classifying them, and exploring simple food chains.

Children explore modern farming practices and learn how animals and crops are cared for.

### History – Farming & Harvest: Past and Present

Comparing how harvests and farming were done in the past with modern-day methods.

Learning about tools, techniques, and celebrations over time.

Understanding how farming shapes our daily lives today.



### DT – Harvest Lunch & Felted Seasonal Crown

Planning and creating harvest-themed food, designing felt crowns, and evaluating their creations.

### Geography – Seasons, Weather & Food Origins

Observing daily weather and seasonal changes.

Exploring UK weather patterns, hot and cold countries, and where our food comes from-linking this to modern farming and harvest.



### Art – Seasonal Painting

Exploring colour mixing, textures, and seasonal landscapes.

### ICT – Digital Exploration

Exploring beats, rhythms, and simple tunes with 2Simple2Beat.

Using digital tools to create harvest and farm-themed artwork.



### RE – Faith & Festivals (weekly)

Exploring Judaism through Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur: Children will learn about these important Jewish festivals, exploring family traditions, reflection, and forgiveness through stories and activities.

### Forest School

We will have many exciting weekly Forest School sessions with Mrs Wilson, where children will explore nature and observe seasonal changes in the outdoor environment. They will take part in hands-on activities such as woodworking, building shelters, cooking on the fire, and den-making. Forest School gives children the freedom to be curious, take risks safely, and develop confidence, resilience, and teamwork.

## Phonics

Phonics is an important part of Year 1. Children will continue to expand their knowledge of phonics, learning new golden sounds and tricky words. In June, the children will complete their Year 1 Phonics Screening Test, which helps teachers identify areas for further support. Please don't worry- children are assessed daily, and support is given where needed.

*Reading at Home:* We now encourage grown-ups to listen to their child read for 10–15 minutes daily. Regular reading at home helps children develop fluency, build confidence, and improve comprehension. It also strengthens vocabulary, fosters a love of stories, and provides a special opportunity for shared learning and conversation. Your child has a golden phonics home learning booklet to support learning and show our weekly phonics focus. Research shows that when families understand what their child is learning, children feel empowered, more confident, and motivated to take charge of their own learning. Spellings will also be set in the booklet, and children will practice these daily in class.

We are so excited for a term full of stories, creativity, and discovery, exploring both modern and historical farming while following the children's interests along the way. Thank you for your support, it makes all the difference as your children learn, explore, and shine!

Very best wishes,  
Miss Gill

