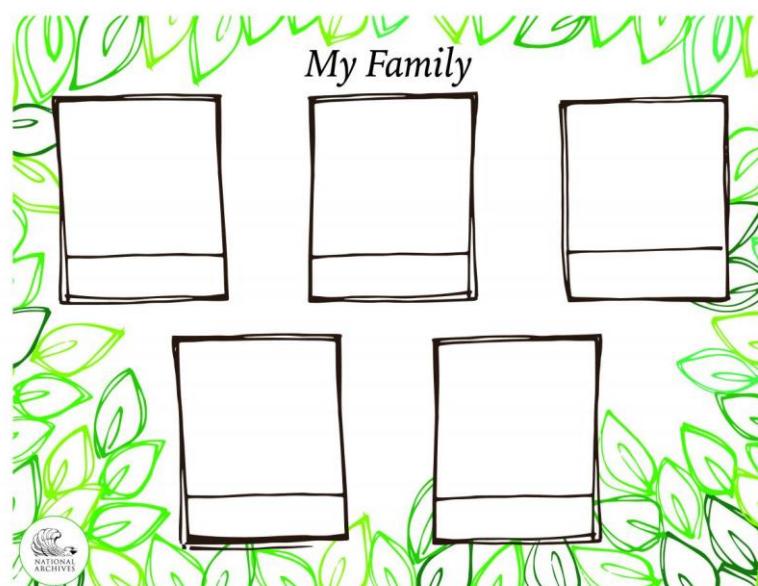




# Curriculum Newsletter

## Merlins

Autumn 2025



## My Family Tree

Our Christian Values:

Caring   Commitment to Achieve   Co-operation

Honesty   Respect

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you have had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for an exciting year ahead. The children have returned with a fantastic attitude towards their learning and we are excited about developing their skills and knowledge across the curriculum.

During this Autumn Term, we will be focusing on History; 'My Family Tree.' This began with our exciting WOW Day with some amazing activities all about our families. We will conclude with an Exit Day and celebrate the term's learning with our families.

Over the term, we endeavour to capture the children's interests and develop their well-being, subject knowledge and subject skills.

<b>Autumn Term 2025</b>
Our theme is 'My Family Tree'
On our WOW Day we began to explore our family tree
As part of our Exit Day, we shall have a Memory Museum and share our learning with our families.

### English Reading

Reading is a vital skill for children to learn as it feeds into every curriculum area. We will continue to have daily reading sessions in separate groups. Around half of the class will be working on reading practice sessions. These sessions involve decoding, prosody and comprehension across the week. This is strongly linked to our phonics scheme. The other children will participate in guided reading sessions where skills such as comprehension and fluency are developed throughout the week.

The Phonics scheme we follow is Little Wandle Letter and Sounds Revised. We will be introducing a range of new graphemes and the Year 1 pupils will participate in daily sessions. Reading is so important within our school and your support at home is invaluable. Reading at least four times a week at home will have a positive impact on the children's learning and reading ability.

### Writing

As a class, we will be linking our English closely with our History topic, exploring and describing our families and what life was like for them when they were young. We will be using The Family Book as a starting point, practising key oral, writing skills, and producing reports and narratives all about families.

Our weekly English lessons involve grammar skills, handwriting and writing. In each of our writing purposes, we will build resilience in our learning by first planning aloud what we wish to write about, before creating a brief plan and exploring new subject-specific vocabulary. We will learn how to evaluate our writing with our peers and teacher, and to re-read our work to check for sense. We aim for the children to develop their grammar in sentences, whilst embedding phonics and new vocabulary in their writing.

All these skills are developed further when children are heard reading their school reading books at home.

### Phonics and Spelling

Phonics continues to have significant importance. We are continuing with our Federation scheme, 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.' The children will gain knowledge of a range of tricky words and graphemes through the weeks and will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to their written work. They will be developing their blending skills using known graphemes. Once the children have secure phonics knowledge, they will move on to the Little Wandle spelling sessions, where a new rule is taught each week.

### Mathematics

In Maths this term, we will begin by exploring the place value of numbers. This will include counting, reading and writing numbers forwards and backwards. We will learn how to represent numbers using key strategies such as the part-whole model and a place value chart to help us begin adding tens and ones. We will progress to comparing numbers and objects, using a range of language and comparison symbols (<, > and =). Finally, in our place value topic, we will order objects and numbers, using number lines to support us. Later in the term, we will begin addition and subtraction using a range of strategies. We shall use number bonds and fact families to find patterns in number sequences and use these to develop addition and subtraction bonds.

### Science

Within Science, we will begin developing our knowledge of similarities and differences between animals, including humans. We will learn about our bodies and our senses. We will use our science skills by grouping animals by their main characteristics. Finally, we will develop our knowledge of food chains by learning about what animals eat and their preferred diets. Our science work will have cross-curricular links to Maths using measuring skills and PSHE by showing respect to animals as well as humans.

### R.E

Our topic in RE this term is Being Human, with a focus on the religion of Islam. We will consider what the Qur'an says about how Muslims should live their lives and use our RE skills to compare this to the Bible's teachings about Christians' compassion. We will consider our individual, school values, and discuss why we choose to live by these. We shall gain knowledge of how Muslim faith and beliefs can be seen in the actions of inspirational Muslims.

### History

Our unit of 'My Family Tree' will explore our own childhoods and backgrounds, as well as those of other family members. We are excited to develop our historical skills, where we will explore and compare history within the living memory of ourselves and our families. We will develop knowledge about chronology in the context of clothing, toys and technology through recent history.

### Computing

A specific Computing unit will not be taught during the Autumn term. However, we will continue learning about the importance of E-Safety.

### PSHE

This year, we will continue to develop our skills and knowledge with the Jigsaw scheme of work. We will begin with 'Being Me' and after half term we will explore 'Celebrating Differences.'

#### Art

In Art throughout the Autumn Term, we will explore and experiment with a range of media by creating portraits of ourselves. We shall develop our Art skills so that we can draw lines and make marks from observations, using a range of materials. We will further develop our skills by working on several different surfaces, adapting both textures and colours within our artwork to the environment we are working in. We will gain knowledge of some fantastic artists such as Van Gogh, Picasso and Brianna McCarthy.

#### Music

In Music, we shall develop our skills and knowledge with the topics 'Introducing Beat' and 'Ho, Ho, Ho.'

#### PE

The children will have PE sessions on a Wednesday afternoon and the children will have swimming lessons on a Tuesday morning. The children will be doing a multi-skills topic in PE which they will enjoy developing their skills in.

#### Cooking in the Curriculum

We are going to learn a range of cooking skills, such as how to stir, spread, cut and shape a range of food and ingredients. We will also begin to learn how to work safely and hygienically within a kitchen environment.

## **Important Information**

### **Reading**

In Key Stage One, we will change your child's reading book once a week. They will bring home at least two reading-level books and a Reading for Pleasure book. Please can we ask that you aim to read your child's scheme books with them at least three times to support retention, particularly with phonics. Research suggests that this also strongly improves fluency.

Your child's books will be linked with their phonics teaching for you to practise at home.

When reading a book three times with your child, please use the following structure:

**Read 1: Read to your child.**

**Read 2: Your child reads to you.**

**Read 3: Ask questions about the text.**

### **Key Reminders**

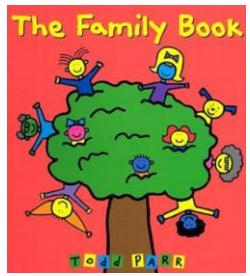
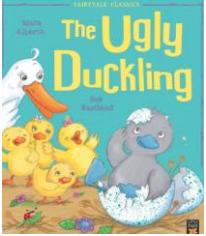
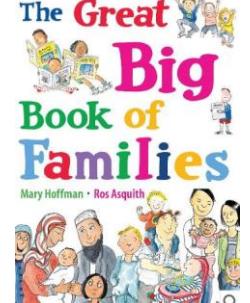
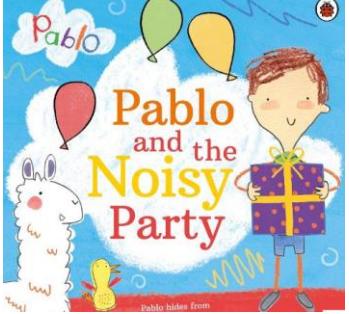
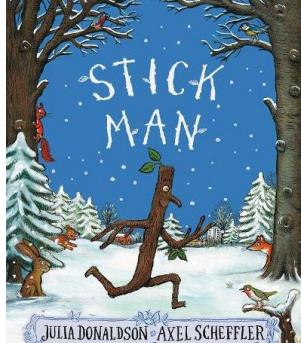
- Children need a named water bottle in school every day. As part of our 'Defeat the Sweet' project, we are a water-only school.
- Homework will be set on a Friday and returned by the following Thursday. Homework is an important part of consolidating the week's learning.
- Please label any jumpers, coats, gloves and hats. Please bring coats during the Autumn Term.
- Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday. The Tuesday session is swimming. The children will need correct PE uniform for these days.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to approach me.

Kind regards,

Miss Stones

Our class readers this term:

<p>The Family Book (Todd Parr)</p> 	<p>The Ugly Duckling (Hans Christian Anderson)</p> 
<p>The Great Big Book of Families (Mary Hoffman)</p> 	<p>Pablo and the Noisy Party (Pablo)</p> 
<p>The Stick Man (Julia Donaldson)</p> 	<p>The Tunnel (Anthony Browne)</p> 