

Year 1 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the second half term: Our Local Community – Where I Belong

This covers the second half of the autumn term (12th October – 27th November, with half term from 26th–30th October, and an INSET day on Monday 2nd November when school is closed to children). During this time, Year 1 will be exploring **Our Local Community – Where I Belong** — discovering how our school and local area have changed over time, finding out about Joseph Swan, an inventor with links to Low Fell, and exploring and mapping the places around our school. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Awareness**.

Our CARE Curriculum

Our Local Community is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 1, 'Awareness' means noticing, questioning and valuing the people, places and history that make up the community where we belong.

Our School Value: RESILIENT

We'll start by reading Little People, BIG DREAMS: Olive Morris as a class. Olive was a community activist who spoke up for fairness and equal rights where she lived, and kept going even when things were hard. This links to our school value of being RESILIENT, and to this unit's theme: just as Olive worked to make her community a better place, we'll be finding out what makes our own community special.

History, Geography and Science this half term

We're learning about our local area, past and present, and the animals that share our world:

- How and why our school has changed over time, using old and new photographs
- Joseph Swan, who helped invent the light bulb and lived in Low Fell, and an important event in local history
- Naming physical and human features, using aerial photographs, and drawing simple maps with symbols and a key
- Grouping animals into fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, and into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores

At home, you could go for a walk around your street and spot human features (houses, shops, roads) and physical features (trees, hills, the sky) — or draw a simple map of your route together!

Maths this half term

We're building on our number work, exploring shape and comparing amounts:

- Addition and Subtraction to 10 — number bonds, adding and taking away, and fact families
- Shape and Comparison — sorting 2D and 3D shapes, and finding 1 more and 1 less up to 10

At home, you could make up simple number stories together ('3 apples, and 2 more...'), or go on a shape hunt around the house.

English this half term

Writing in role and describing characters with Not Now, Bernard by David McKee, then writing a recount and a setting description inspired by Beegu by Alexis Deacon.

Music this half term

Singing together with Gateshead Music Service — exploring singing quietly and loudly, and how lullabies and upbeat songs make us feel.

RE this half term

Jesus — why is he so important to Christians? Learning the story of Jesus' birth, what Christians mean by 'incarnation', and how the Christmas story inspires acts of charity today.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "What makes somewhere feel like home?"
- Ask: "Who helps us in our local community?"
- Ask: "Is a dog a mammal, a bird or a reptile? How do you know?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Olive Morris resilient?"
- Try together: look at old photos of your street or family and talk about what has changed — and what has stayed the same!

Words you might hear at home

community, belong, local area, landmark, map, key, symbol, algorithm, structure, mammal, carnivore, herbivore

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers being an ally, what makes each of us special, what different feelings feel like, feeling proud and feeling worried, and staying safe online with the NSPCC's Techosaurus. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Enrichment

- A local walk to look at the blue plaques around Low Fell, finding out about the people and places they remember

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the second half of the autumn term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



Find your Remarkable

Resilient