

# Brilliant Brunel Year 1 Spring Term 1 2026

**English:** This term we will learn about narrative, reports, poetry and instructions.

Text: *A Balloon for Grandad*

We will learn how to change a well-known fantasy stories by making additions and substitutions.

Model texts: instructions for making a jam sandwich, information about Brunel

Through the term we work on improving our writing by:

Using capital letters correctly for days of the weeks and the personal pronoun, I.

Remembering to leave spaces between our words.

Composing a sentence orally before writing it.

Using -s or -es for plurals & -ed and -er in words where no change to the root word is needed.

Punctuating sentences using a capital letter and full stop.

Developing the use of adverbs e.g. luckily, unfortunately, fortunately

Begin to engage readers by using adjectives to describe

Continue to develop our handwriting and presentation with the formation of letters and numbers and correct pencil grip

**Key vocab:** sentence, word, letters, handwriting, full stop, spaces, story, letter, suffix, poem, rhyme, non-fiction, fiction

**Maths:** In this unit, we will focus on building confidence with numbers and developing strong addition and subtraction skills. Children will practise counting to and from 20 and explore counting in tens, noticing patterns as they count from 20 to 100. They will deepen their understanding of how numbers are composed, particularly numbers 6 to 10, and use this knowledge to solve problems. We will introduce additive structures, starting with addition and then moving on to subtraction, helping children see how these operations are connected. By practising addition and subtraction facts within 10, children will begin to recall these quickly and apply them in different contexts. To support this learning, we will be using Oak National Academy planning alongside practical resources and images to make lessons engaging and interactive.

**Key vocab:** number, numeral, forward, backward, order, decade, decade number, pattern, row, first, then, now, bar model

**Computing: Computer Science:** Digital literacy

Through our sessions we will learn about algorithms and how they are used to create programs on devices that we use everyday. We will still continue to learn about using technology safely and what to do if we feel we need help. **Key vocab:** Instructions, recipe, debugging, program, sequence, algorithm, decomposition

**PE: Gymnastics** This term we will learn 5 gymnastic shapes and link them in a sequence. Our outdoor sport sessions with Mr Robertson will continue. We will learn an invasion game- Wrap up warm!. **Key vocab:** star, straddle, tuck, pike, straight, partner, travel, sequence, start, finish, Teddy Bear Roll and fluency

**Religious Education** What makes some places sacred? By reading Bible stories, listening to music and learning information, we will begin to identify objects, symbols and actions used in churches. **Key vocab:** Special, Sacred, Church, Mosque, Synagogue, symbol

**Science: Everyday Materials**

Our work this term will build on the learning completed last term. We have learnt how to identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock.

We will learn to describe and compare the properties of materials such as hard/soft, shiny/dull, bendy/not bendy, waterproof/not waterproof, and absorbent/not absorbent. We will also carry out simple tests to investigate which materials are best for making a waterproof hat. **Key vocab:**

metal, wood, cardboard, fabric, soft, shiny, rough, bumpy, absorbent, not absorbent, waterproof, not waterproof, observe, identify, experiment, predict, test

**Seasonal Changes**

We will observe and describe the weather, make comparisons between the seasons and measure temperature, create a rain gauge and wind flag, and record weather changes. We will also name the four seasons and discuss how day length varies. **Key vocab:** cloudy, windy, rainy,

temperature, sunny, weather, season names, months

**Design and Technology:** To link in with our work on Brunel, we will be learning about how wheels move. We will be designing and making moving vehicles and watching them race!

**Key vocab:** axle, axle holder, chassis, wheel, vehicle

**History: Isambard Kingdom Brunel:** This term we will embrace the local history of Swindon and learn about the famous engineer. We are going to be taking the children on a train from Swindon to Bristol Temple Meads station. This will bring this area of history to life! **Key vocab:** Brunel, Swindon, engineer, design, railway lines, local area, bridges, tunnels, ships, Bristol Suspension Bridge, Thames Tunnel, SS Great Britain, travel, impact, help, change

**Music:** Through singing and using chime bars, we will keep a steady beat, copy simple rhythm patterns with long and short sounds and copy simple melodic patterns with high and low notes.

We will apply these skills through singing and using musical instruments (chime bars). We will compose our own piece of music and listen to different types of music each week. **Key vocab:** pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, improvise, sing, notation composing

**Jigsaw: Dreams and Goals** This term we will be looking at how we can set a goal and work towards achieving it. We will think about how good it feels when we succeed and complete challenges. **Key vocab:** goals, dreams, learning, stepping stones, process, proud, achieve/achievement, success, work together, celebrate/celebration, team work, challenge obstacle, overcome, feelings, safe