

The World Around Us
(Science, Technology, Geography and History)



Our themes for this term are [On the Move](#) and [Up My Street](#).

On the Move

Children will explore how they move, identifying main body parts and associated movements. Whilst doing this the children will reflect on those who are unable to move and those who may need aids to assist movement. We will investigate the importance of exercise in keeping healthy and how the body reacts to movement. Children will also identify various forms of transport and explore how they move, suggesting the most suitable form of transport for a given journey. We hope to visit the local bus/train station in the course of the term. If any parents work in the area of transport, please consider coming into the classroom to share your knowledge with the children – we'd love to learn more! Children will reflect upon a familiar or favourite journey they have/have had, e.g. the journey to school, to a relatives, a favourite holiday etc. During this reflection your child will consider how they get/got there and how many modes of transport are/ were used.

We will also be looking at similarities and differences between how animals move by exploring hibernation and migration. From this, children will then identify the movement of time via seasonal changes – winter to spring and day to night.

During play based learning, children will explore going on imaginary journeys and we have set up a boat in the classroom to ignite imaginations. In the outdoors we are going to role-play a 'mechanic's garage' in which children will be very busy 'fixing' and repairing broken down vehicles. It is important in the cold winter months that the children bring their coat, a hat, scarf, gloves so that we can go outside to play.

Up My Street

The theme, 'Up My Street' will involve the children exploring the structure of buildings, beginning with observations of local buildings, road/street names, familiar/unfamiliar shops and local attractions. This will involve a visit to our 'Main Street' in Ballymoney where we will look for shapes and patterns along the street. Children will identify features of local streets e.g. traffic lights, road signs, bins, recycling areas etc. Back in school we will set up a shop in the outdoors including role-playing using road safety signs and dressing up as postperson, road sweep, binman, shop owner, policeman etc. If you would be interested in sharing information about the job that you have with the Primary One children, we would very much like to hear from you. Children will also consider people who work outdoors in our locality and the jobs they do. We will be learning how to cross the street safely and what the road signs and crossing symbols mean. Included in our topic work are creative activities, such as creating a 3D model of Main Street and carrying out simple science investigations.



Mathematics and Numeracy

Handling Data:

Children will conduct a simple survey to discover the range of transport that travel along Castle Street. We will put the findings of our survey onto computer software to make picture, bar and block graphs to illustrate our findings. We will also be creating graphs showing how we travel to school as well as modes of transport we have experienced.

Addition

The children will soon be learning to add on one to a given number within 10. We will be carrying out lots of practical activities in preparation for understanding and using 'plus' and 'equals' signs when writing addition sums.

Science Investigations

We are always keen to promote children's thinking skills and problem solving skills through science investigations and our new topic lends itself to some exciting work on moving. Ask your child about science experiments and what they have found out.

Physical Education and Movement

This term the children are learning gymnastics and will be combining basic jumps and movements to create simple sequences.



What else is going on?

Reading

Children will continue to receive a new reading book Mon – Thurs (inclusive). Children will have read the book earlier in class with the exception of the Wednesday reading book. On this day children choose from a selection of unfamiliar fiction / non-fiction reading books which are appropriately matched to the child's reading level. During reading lessons, children are taught the skills required to decode words, which are, looking at the pictures and sounding the word out. Therefore, reading with you will be an important time to practise reading using these skills.

The children are fast approaching the end of the Jolly Phonics programme and it has been clearly evident that they have worked exceptionally hard to retain these. Your support in helping with homework and playing the sound game has played a significant role in their success. Thank you.

This term, we will be focusing on blending sounds together to make words and introducing tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out). Watch out for a change in homework content which will be sent home in the coming weeks. Parental guidance will accompany all homework.

