



# Thaxted Primary School Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

## Year 1 - Van Gogh Class



Term:	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Focus Theme:	Paddington visits London The Great Fire of London	Space	Amazing Africa
Hook:	Teddy Bear's Picnic on the school field - bring your own teddy	Alien landing in the playground!	Trip to Colchester Zoo in week 1
Class Reading Text:	See 'Reading Bookshelf'	See 'Reading Bookshelf'	See 'Reading Bookshelf'
Home Learning Project:	<p>1. Be an Inventor Read 'A Bear called Paddington' and then invent your own version of the story and tell it to somebody in your family. You can start with. "Things are always happening to me. I'm that sort of bear."</p> <p>2. Be a Researcher Find out some interesting facts about London. Present them in any way you want.</p> <p>3. Be an Investigator Find the places mentioned in the story on an atlas or map and find out about the places.</p> <p>4. Be a Chef Paddington's favourite food is marmalade. Find a recipe and make your own marmalade - it's delicious on toast.</p> <p>5. Be an Explorer Learn about Peru, where Paddington Bear is from?</p> <p>6. Go on a Paddington Bear picnic Take a friend or your family on a picnic and play games and tell stories. Marmalade sandwiches must be included.</p>	<p>1. Be an artist Design an alien. Draw and label an alien who might live on another planet. Write about what it eats, how it moves and what it looks like.</p> <p>2. Be an Inventor Design and create a rocket model using recycled materials. Think carefully about the features that you would like to include. What would you take up to space?</p> <p>3. Be a Researcher What is in the night sky? Find out the names of the planets in our solar system and research which are closest to Earth. You may wish to draw the planets and label them, or make them into a 3D model.</p> <p>4. Be a Writer Imagine you are an astronaut and you travel to the Moon. Write a postcard home describing what you see, who you meet and how you feel.</p> <p>4. Be an Astronomer Make a moon and stars diary. Look at the moon each night for a week, draw its shape and note any changes. Look at the stars with an adult and draw what you see.</p> <p>5. Be an Explorer Find out some interesting facts about a famous astronaut (e.g. Tim Peake, Neil Armstrong, Mae Jemison) Create a mini fact file or poster.</p>	<p>1. Be an Artist Can you create a picture or collage of an animal found in Africa, make an animal mask or design an African pattern for clothing?</p> <p>2. Be a Historian Can you research and find out about a famous landmark in Africa?</p> <p>3. Be a Researcher Can you find out facts and create a fact file for Africa e.g. the flag, climate, animals, traditional food?</p> <p>4. Be a Designer Can you make a Lego model of an animal/landmark or make a junk model animal?</p> <p>5. Be a Musician Can you research what instruments they use in Africa and then make your own version?</p> <p>6. Be a Scientist Choose an African animal and find out about the habitat they live in.</p> <p>7. Be a Chef Can you create a dish traditional to Africa?</p> <p>8. Be a Detective Can you ask family/friends and find out if anyone has been to Africa? Ask them questions or to look at their pictures.</p>

Showcase:	Nativity		Show and share to another KS1 class		Share story retelling of song/story or script	
Enrichment:	Scooting session Teddy Bear's Picnic		Thaxted astrological society to visit for star gazing evening		Trip to Colchester Zoo International Week	
Subject Area:	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
English  Other reading texts  Also see Reading Spine	<b>Paddington and the Marmalade Maze</b> by Michael Bond  <b>A Bear called Paddington</b>  Bug Club group books and Bug Club online	<b>Paddington at the Palace</b>  <b>A Bear Called Paddington</b> by Michael Bond	<b>Alien Landing</b> by Pie Corbett  Selection of non-fiction texts - Space	<b>The Man on the Moon</b> by Simon Bartram  <b>Q Pootle 5</b> by Nick Butterworth  Selection of instruction books  <b>The Way Back Home</b> by Oliver Jeffers	<b>We're going on a Lion Hunt</b> by David Axtell  <b>Handa's Hen</b> by Eileen Browne	<b>Handa's Surprise</b> by Eileen Browne  <b>Meerkat Mail</b> by Emily Gravett  <b>Lion King?</b> Yr 6 Leavers show?
Poetry	Rhyming-words/nursery rhymes and Harvest poem Performance Poem  Text: Harvest Poem to recite in church: <b>Harvest time is here again</b> by Anita Killick	List poems - Firework senses or Classic bear poems	Descriptive poems My Disgusting Alien Or Humorous poems - Aliens stole my underpants	Space poems or Acrostic Easter poems (Easter 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2026)	Repeating poem -African Stories with repeating patterns e.g.: Bringing the rain to Kapiti Plain	Shape poems on the theme Summer
Writing Focus	<b>(N) Character description</b> - picture stories about Paddington Bear  <b>(NF) Recount</b> - postcard to Aunt Lucy about Paddington's trip to the maze.  <b>(N) Fantasy picture stories</b> - Paddington adventure  <b>(N) London guide book</b>	<b>(N) Setting description</b> - Pudding Lane  <b>(N) Character description/story-</b> Paddington meets the Queen clip  Assessed Writing piece  <b>(NF) Instructions</b> - marmalade sandwiches	<b>(N) Story writing</b> - Alien Landing - Pie Corbett  <b>(NF) Recount</b> of Alien Landing (possible newspaper writing)  Focus on <b>non-fiction texts</b> and features - Space	<b>(N) Story writing</b> - The Man on the Moon  <b>(NF) Instructions</b> - how to fix a space ship. Q Pootle 5 (Use selection of instruction books.)  <b>(N) Story/character description</b> - The Way Back Home - Oliver Jeffers.	<b>(N) Story writing/describing sentences</b> - We're going on a Lion Hunt + Handa's Hen  <b>(NF) Recount</b> - trip to the zoo	<b>(N) Character description and comic strip</b> - Catch it -  <b>(NF) Instructions</b> for a fruit salad - using Handa's Surprise and selection of Instruction texts.  <b>(NF) Letter/postcard writing</b> - Meerkat mail

Mathematics	Baseline tests  Place Value  Addition and Subtraction	Addition and Subtraction continued  Shape	Place Value  Addition and Subtraction	Place Value  Length and Height  Mass and Volume	Multiplication and Division  Fractions  Position and Direction	Place Value  Money Time
RE	What do my senses tell me about the world of religion and belief?	How does a celebration bring a community together?		What does the cross mean to Christians?		What do Jewish people remember on Shabbat?
Computing		Digital Literacy and E-Safety		Information technology		Coding
Science	Seasonal changes throughout the year  Animals including humans		Seasonal changes throughout the year  Materials		Seasonal changes throughout the year  Plants and Habitats	
History		Great Fire of London		The Moon Landing and Neil Armstrong		Events in the local area
Geography	UK capital cities Human and Physical features of London compared to Lima.		Observing school grounds. Map work, compass and aerial photos.		Comparing weather in the UK and Kenya. Human and Physical features of Kenya's continents and Oceans.	
Art	Collage work- darkest Peru.	Silhouette work of the Great Fire of London		Studying Van Gogh's work- The Starry Night.		Sculpture- making pots.

Design and Technology	Making Buildings- famous London Building		Structures and mechanisms- moon buggies.		Cooking from around the world.	
Physical Education	Outdoors- Fundamentals Indoors- gymnastics	Outdoors- Ball Skills Indoors- Dance	Outdoors- Striking and Fielding Indoors- Gymnastics	Outdoors- Striking and Fielding Indoors- Dance	Athletics- Running Throwing Jumping	Athletics- Running Throwing Jumping
Music	Dance, Sing and play	Harvest Songs	Meet the instruments	Nativity songs	Let's Perform together	
PSHE	Being Me in My World	Celebrating Difference	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Relationships	Changing Me