

Year 3 Newsletter

Autumn 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Awesome Ancient Britain!

In this topic, we will be exploring Stone Age Britain and thinking about how life was different for earlier civilisations.

Our Key Texts this half term are Stone Age Boy, How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth and James and the Giant Peach.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Guided Reading this half term, we will be focusing on the following objectives:

- Drawing inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction.
- Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays and non-fiction.
- Participate in reasoned discussion about books, poems and other materials that are read to him/her and those he/she can read for himself/herself, taking turns and listening to what others say
- Discussing words that capture the reader's interest and imagination

Writing:

In Year 3, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan writing by discussing writing similar to that which he/she is planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure and vocabulary.
- Draft and write non-narrative material, using headings and sub-headings to organise texts.
- Proof-read for spelling errors and for punctuation- including full stop, apostrophe, comma, question mark and exclamation marks.
- Evaluate and edit by proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary linked to the use of a/an, conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions.

We will be writing character descriptions, based on 'Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker'.

We will focus on developing the following specific skills:

- 'Showing, not telling' – describe a character's emotions through senses.
- Develop character through extra details: eg hobbies, desires, wishes
- Use adverbs and adjectives to develop our characters.
- Organise writing using paragraphs.

We will be writing instruction texts based on 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth':

- Use time connectives and imperative verbs.
- Use conjunctions to link clauses.
- Organise writing using different structural techniques.

In grammar, we will revisit and build on some of our learning from previous years:

expanded noun phrases, apostrophes for possession and contraction, progressive tenses and different forms of sentences.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Place Value

- Count from 0 in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100; find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number.
- Recognise the place value of each digit in a three-digit number (hundreds, tens, ones).
- Compare and order numbers up to 1000.
- Identify, represent and estimate numbers using different strategies.
- Read and write numbers up to 1000 in numerals and in words.
- Solve number problems and practical problems involving place value.

Addition and Subtraction

- Add numbers mentally, including: a three-digit number and ones; a three-digit number and tens; a three-digit number and hundreds.
- Subtract numbers mentally, including: a three-digit number and ones; a three-digit number and tens; a three-digit number and hundreds.
- Add numbers with up to three digits, using formal written methods of column addition.
- Subtract numbers with up to three digits, using formal written methods of column subtraction.
- Estimate the answer to a calculation and use inverse operations to check answers.
- Solve problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value, and more complex addition and subtraction.

We will continue to develop our counting skills as part of our mental starters throughout our maths lessons, making links to our times tables.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

Our unit of science this half term is focused on forces. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- Notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance
- Observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others.
- Describe magnets as having two poles
- Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Raise relevant questions and use different forms of enquiry to answer them
- Recognise when a simple fair test is necessary and help to decide how to set it up
- Make systematic observations.
- Make decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of equipment needed.
- Notice natural patterns and decide what data to collect to identify them.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on computer networks and communication. We will cover the following objectives:

- I can explain what equipment is needed to connect a computer system together.
- I can explain why computers are sometimes used to control things.
- I know what a network is.
- I know what information is.
- I can explain how a computer system connects together.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on creating powerful passwords.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History:

Our history focus this half term will be on 'Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age' and we will include the following areas:

- How do we know about early people?
- What was prehistory and which periods did it cover in Britain?
- What was life like for Mesolithic hunter-gatherers?
- How was life in Neolithic Skara Brae different to the Mesolithic?

We will be developing the following historical skills:

- Develop chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
- Address and devise historically valid questions about change, similarity and difference.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.
- Address and devise historically valid questions about significance.

RE:

In RE, we will be exploring the traditions of Judaism. We will be recalling their different beliefs, and answer the question of what is important for Jews about being part of God's family? This will include looking at the following elements:

- The Ten Commandments and the Torah
- The synagogue
- Shabbat, Mezuzah and Bar Mitzvah

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be learning greetings and goodbyes, names and ages, and dates and birthdays.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art:

- Children will imitate cave art, using raw materials such as chalk and charcoal based on Grotte de Lascaux. They will explore different painting techniques and colour mixing.
- They move on to silhouette art, based on Stonehenge, and exploring the use of light and dark through monochrome still life drawings.

We will develop the following skills:

- Developing mark making techniques, such as intricate patterns or smudging, using a variety of mediums.
- During observational drawing, children should be taught how to represent the tonal scale—the effect of light on an object, including shadows— in drawings using pencil, chalk, pastels and charcoal. Begin to show an awareness of objects having a third dimension and perspective.
- Children should experiment with representing texture in manmade and natural patterns.
- Children should be taught to draw positive and negative spaces in their drawing to aid with forming aesthetically pleasing compositions. Noting also, fore/middle/background.
- Use a sketchbook to record media explorations and experimentations as well as planning and collecting source material for future works.

Music: Performing

- Kodaly method with singing.
- Enjoy making, playing, changing and combining sounds; experiment with different ways of producing sounds with voice, musical instruments, simple music technology, 'body sounds' (tapping, clicking, marching, stamping etc.).

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Health Related Fitness and Football.

Health Related Fitness

Learn the importance of health and exercise, and ways in which you can keep fit and healthy by taking part in a variety of activities. Recognise the effects of exercise through body temp and heart rate.

Football

Experience: small-sided and modified competitive net, striking/fielding and invasion games; using simple tactics; applying simple rules and conventions.

Develop: making up small-sided games; own game practices; playing games in pairs/small.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Beginning and Belonging'.

- Contribute ideas to discussions about ground rules for the class and take an active part in activities to help build cooperative relationships in the class.
- Identify emotions that they or someone else might feel in a new situation and will know some ways to help someone who is new to the class and the school.
- Identify people at home, at school and in other contexts of their lives to include in their support networks.
- Know how they can access support and some ways they can help other people.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths

Number, equal, equivalent, one hundred more, one hundred less, relationship, sequence, multiple, factor, ones, tens, hundreds, digits, place, represents, exchange, fewer/less/smaller, more/greater/bigger, round up, round down, round to the nearest ten/hundred.

English

Apostrophe, noun, noun phrase, possession, contraction, conjunctions, tense, past, progressive, sentence, exclamation, question, command.

Science

Nutrition, balanced diet, carbohydrates, protein, fat, sugar, vitamins, minerals, classify, group, keys, variables, fair test, conclusion, prediction

History

Stone, neanderthal, hunter, gatherer, shelter, Neolithic, flint, cave paintings, carvings,

Bronze, Stonehenge, smelting, farming, shield, tools, copper, arrowhead, weapons, settlement, keep,