

Year 4 Newsletter

Spring 2

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Magnificent Maps!

In this topic, we will be exploring maps. We will be considering how these have changed over time and what they can tell us about how land is used.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

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

- Identify main ideas from more than one paragraph and summarise these.
- Check that the text makes sense, discussing understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context.
- Read for a range of purposes.
- Recognise some different forms of poetry e.g. free verse, narrative poetry
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction over a wide range of subjects.

Writing:

In Year 4, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan his/her writing by discussing and recording ideas.
- Draft and write by composing and rehearsing sentences orally, building a rich and varied vocabulary and using sentence structure.
- Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of his/her own writing.
- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors, including the use of the apostrophe for possession, speech punctuation and the use of the comma for fronted adverbials.
- Confidently read his/her own writing aloud, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

We will be writing news reports and will be focusing on the following skills:

- Use the third person and an appropriate informative tone
- Include quotations, which are accurately punctuated.
- Link ideas to create flow through use of different sentence openers.

Speaking and Listening:

We will be writing, learning and performing play scripts as part of our Spring performance.

In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas: using commas accurately to demarcate clauses, personal and possessive pronouns, embedded clauses,

Our Maths learning this half term:

Fractions

Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions.

Count up and down in hundredths and know that dividing an object by 100 creates hundredths as does dividing tenths by ten.

Solve problems involving fractions to calculate quantities and fractions to divide quantities.

Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.

Solve simple money and measure problems involving fractions.

Decimals

Recognise and show the values of tenths and hundredths.

Divide 1 and 2 digit numbers by tenths and hundredths.

Understand the relationship between tenths and hundredths as fractions and decimals.

We will continue to develop our counting and times tables skills throughout our lessons, in preparation for the Multiplication Check in the Summer term.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

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

- I can identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
- I can recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear
- I can find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
- I can find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it
- I can recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- 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
- Draw simple conclusions (to identify differences, similarities and changes) and use simple scientific language

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on creating media, working with images.

- I can delete photos that I no longer need.
- I can transfer my photos to the computer.
- I can edit my image by cropping it or adding effects.
- I can talk about photo size and resolution and the need to resize some photographs.
- I can create a digital image using layers.
- I can combine images to create a new image.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be using the internet to find information.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Geography:

We will deepen our understanding of the geography of the United Kingdom, focusing in this unit on the topographical features of the UK – ie. the hills, mountains and coasts.

Different map types will be used to explore these - including beginning to use OS and digital mapping to identify contours, compass points and grid references. Links will be made to history to allow children to identify how geographical features can have a significant impact upon human activity.

Ensure knowledge of the countries, capitals and major cities of the UK is secure.

Consider how places have changed over time and how land use has changed over history. Build on this by identifying some key topographical features of the United Kingdom (hills, rivers, mountains, coasts) and link these to Viking exploration and Saxon place names.

RE:

In RE, we will be continuing to focus on Islam and exploring different aspects of the religion.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be discussing likes, dislikes and preferences. We will then be exploring festivities in Spanish-speaking countries, including Easter.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art and DT:

We will be starting our weaving work, creating our wire people on a plinth and before spending some time creating props and sets for our end-of-term production. We will develop the following skills:

- Use research and design criteria to inform design of our creations, looking at and exploring real-life examples.
- Develop ideas to inform the design of innovative, functional and appealing products by looking at, exploring and analysing examples of real-life examples.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion and annotated sketches.
- Select and use a wider range of materials and components, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.
- Evaluate their final design against their own, original design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.
- Apply our understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce their creations.

Music:

- Practising performing skills in an ensemble using tuned and non-tuned instruments.
- Create lyrical melody that can sing along to the music.
- Learn to play several parts to the piece of music.
- Attempt to conduct by memorising sections.
- Introduce singing where appropriate.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE: Our PE units this half term are **Gymnastics and Tag Rugby**

Gymnastics

Develop an understanding of asymmetrical and Symmetrical shapes.
Link actions to make sequences of movement with travel movements, shapes, jumps.
Understand how to improve and evaluate their own success.

Tag Rugby

Experience small sided games of Tag Rugby. Develop passing backwards, key principles of the game and defending.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Relationships and Sex Education'. We will:

Identify the main stages of the human lifecycle and identify the stage of an individual with reasonable accuracy

Explain ideas about being grown up and show they have a relatively realistic view of adulthood

Identify an area for which they can take more responsibility

Explain some ways that parents/carers are responsible for babies and understand that these responsibilities are based on the fact that a baby cannot look after itself.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths:

Fractions: Fraction, equivalent fraction, mixed number, numerator, denominator, equal part, equal grouping, equal sharing, parts of a whole, half, two halves, one of two equal parts, quarter, two quarters, three quarters, one of four equal parts, one third, two thirds, one of three equal parts, sixths, sevenths, eighths, tenths, hundredths, decimal, decimal fraction, decimal point, decimal place, decimal equivalent, proportion

Decimals: Decimal point, tenths, hundredths, thousandths, equivalent, place value, Bar model Place value chart, dividing, proportion, value, segment, penny, pound, amount, fraction.

English:

News Reports: Report, Recount, News report, Newspaper, Headline, Bias, Hero/villain, Eye-witness, Reporter, Quotation, Time connective / adverbial, Connective phrase, Pronoun, Embedded clause, Relative pronoun

Play Scripts: Play script, scene, characters, speech, acts, setting, stage directions, list of characters, changes of place, changes of time, description, destination, script, features, italics, capital, ellipsis,

Science: sound, sound waves, vibration, air, travel, vacuum, pitch (high and low), tone, volume, absorb, insulation, amplitude, medium, ear, cochlea, pinna, hammer, anvil, stirrup, auditory nerve, eustachian tube, ear canal

Geography: Ordnance Survey, maps, keys, contours, hills, mountains, coasts, rivers, land-use, patterns, human features, physical features, compass, grid reference.