

Year 3 Newsletter

Spring 2

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Ancient Egyptians!

In this topic, we will be learning about ancient civilisations, focused on the Egyptians, their way of life and contrasting their experiences with our own.

Our Key Texts this half term are:

Mystery of the Egyptian Scroll – Scott Peters

Ma'at's Feather – Juliet Desailly

Case of the Cambridge Mummy – Joan Lennon

Horrible Histories: The Awful/Awesome Egyptians - Terry Deary

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

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

- Read texts that are structured in different ways.
- Ask questions to improve understanding of a text.
- Discuss words that capture the reader's interests and imagination.
- Draw inferences from the text.
- Identify how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning, including the use of paragraphs, headings and sub-headings.

Writing:

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

- Plan writing by discussing and recording ideas within a given structure.
- Draft and write by composing and rehearsing sentences orally, building a varied and rich vocabulary and using a range of sentence starters.
- Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of our own writing.
- Proof-read for spelling errors and for punctuation, including inverted commas for speech.

We will be writing newspaper articles:

- Summarise our story within the first paragraph using the 5 W's.
- Use different openers to link ideas.
- Punctuate direct speech correctly.
- Use research to inform our writing.
- Consider layout when publishing work.

We will also be writing persuasive letters:

- Consider the purpose for our writing.
- Use causal conjunctions.
- Structure our ideas into a cohesive argument.
- Use evidence to support our view.
- Identify and use the layout of formal letters

In grammar, we will explore the following areas: Use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech; express cause using conjunctions.

Our Maths learning this half term:

This half term, we will be focusing on measure. As part of the units, we will be revisiting our calculation and place value skills by solving real-life problems involving measurement.

Measure: Length and Perimeter

- Measure, compare, add and subtract lengths (m/cm/mm).
- Measure the perimeter of simple 2-D shapes.

Measure: Money

- Add and subtract amounts of money to give change, using both £ and p in practical contexts.

Measure: Mass and Capacity

- Measure, compare, add and subtract mass (kg/g), volume and capacity (l/ml).

We will continue to develop our counting and mental maths skills throughout our maths units, as well as revisiting any previous misconceptions.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

We will continue to expand our knowledge of plants this half term. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- I can identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers.
- I can explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant
- I can investigate the way in which water is transported within plants.
- I can explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Raise relevant questions and use different forms of enquiry to answer them
- 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 (identifying differences, similarities and changes) and use simple scientific language

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on data, exploring branching databases.

- Know what data is.
- Explain the difference between data and information.
- Create a table (e.g. to collect results).
- Use a computer to collect data.
- Use a computer to analyse data to show something useful.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on the similarities and differences between in-person and online communications.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History

Our history focus this half term will continue to focus on the achievements of, and life within, Ancient Egypt.

- What is mummification and why was it important to the Ancient Egyptians?
- Who ruled Ancient Egypt and who was Tutankhamun?
- How did the Ancient Egyptian writing system work?
- In what ways were gods and goddesses important to the Ancient Egyptians?
- How was the River Nile important to life in this time?

We will be developing the following historical skills:

- Develop chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
- Establish clear narratives within and across the periods they study.
- 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.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

RE

In RE, we will explore the question: 'Is Easter a festival of new life or sacrifice?' We will consider the Christian story of Easter and its significance to people around the world.

Spanish

In Spanish this half term, we will discuss our likes, dislikes and preferences before learning about festivities in Spanish-speaking countries, such as Easter.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art

We will be developing our painting, sewing and drawing skills and continue to use our sketchbooks to explore our ideas.

We will explore the following key concepts:

- Understand that artists combine art and craft using painting and sewing together to make art.
- Understand that when we use two media together such as paint and thread, we can use their unique qualities in different ways to build an image.
- Understand that the skills we use in one medium such as mark making in drawing can be used in another such as sewing.
- Understand that we do not have to use materials in traditional ways – it is up to us to reinvent how we use materials and techniques to make art.

Music

Performance

- Reading score and playing on a piano.
- Learning to read and play notes with expression.
- Developing the use of arpeggios on a piano.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE

OAA

Develop fundamental movement skills, becoming confident when using a map and engage in competitive and cooperative activities.

Swimming

Developing basic safety awareness, safe entries to the water, basic movement skills and water confidence skills, basic floating, travel and unaided rotation to regain upright positions. Swimmers may use aids (arm bands, floats etc.)

PSHE

Our unit this half term is 'Relationships and Sex Education'

- How are male and female bodies different and what are the different parts called?
- When do we talk about our bodies, how they change, and who do we talk to?
- What can my body do and how is it special?
- Why is it important to keep myself clean?
- What can I do for myself to stay clean and how will this change in the future?
- How do different illnesses and diseases spread and what can I do to prevent this?

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term

Maths

Nearly, roughly, close to, just under, just over, money, pounds, pence, note, temperature, weight, measuring scale, length, perimeter, cm, side, narrow, wider, far, shorter, grams, kg, litres, depth, volume

English

Headline, strap line, newspaper, article, column, summary, who, what, where, when, why, quote, report, caption, persuasive, letter, address, sincerely, formal, however, consequently, as a result, therefore, moreover, additionally, introductions, greeting, conclusion, debate, argument, opinion, fact, reason, support, agree, disagree

Science

Flowering plants, structure, roots, leaves, flowers, nutrition, support, reproduction, air, light, minerals, soil, grow, fertiliser, seeds, pollination, blossom, buds, petals, bulb, vegetables, germination, fruit, steam, leaves, temperature, chlorophyll

History

Egypt, Ancient Egyptian, burial, sarcophagus, mummification, natron, tomb, Canopic jars, pyramid, Nile, Tutankhamun, headdress, chambers, pharaoh, sphinx, scrolls, hieroglyphs, scarab beetles, Valley of the Kings and Queens, slaves, Cairo, oasis, deserts, Gods, Deities, shaduf

Geography

River, valley, settlement, precipitation, evaporation, condensation, collection, water cycle