

Year 3 Newsletter

Spring 1

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:

- Increase our familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retell some of these orally.
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction.
- Identify main ideas drawn from within one paragraph and summarise these.
- Identify how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning, including the use of paragraphs, headings, sub-headings and inverted commas to punctuate speech.
- Ask questions to improve understanding of a text.

Writing

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

- Draft and write by composing and rehearse sentences orally, building a varied and rich vocabulary.
- Draft and write in narratives, creating settings, characters and plots.
- Draft and write by organising writing into paragraphs as a way of grouping related material.
- Proof-read for spelling errors and for punctuation- including full stop, apostrophe, comma, question mark, exclamation and inverted commas for speech.

We will be writing mystery stories, focusing on the following writing skills:

- Show the character's feelings and emotions through senses.
- Use a range of descriptive techniques, including expanded noun phrases.
- Develop skills describing a suspenseful setting and developing a mood.
- Use personification.

We will also be writing diaries:

- Use facts and opinions, and write in chronological order.
- Use the past tense and the first person where appropriate.
- Use adverbials of time and conjunctions.

In grammar, we will explore the following areas: Use expanded noun phrases; use prepositions; use prefixes and suffixes, understanding root words; distinguish between fact and opinion.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Multiplication and Division

- Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables
- Write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication using the multiplication tables for Year 3, including for two-digit numbers times one-digit numbers, using mental and progressing to formal written methods
- Write and calculate mathematical statements for division using the multiplication tables for Year 3, including for two-digit numbers times one-digit numbers, using mental and progressing to formal written methods
- Solve problems, including missing number problems, involving multiplication and division, including integer scaling problems and correspondence problems in which n objects are connected to m objects

Statistics

- Interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables
- Solve one-step and two-step questions such as 'How many more?' and 'How many fewer?' using information presented in scaled bar charts and pictograms and tables

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

This half term, we will start our topic on Plants. 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 programming, focused on sequencing.

- I know what an algorithm is.
- I know what a program is.
- I know what sequence means.
- I can design a program.
- I can follow a sequence of instructions.
- I can explain how an algorithm works.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on safe use of the internet, focused on websites that sell products.

- I understand that the main purpose of some websites is to encourage you to buy things.
- I can evaluate a website to determine its purpose.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History and Geography

Our history focus this half term will be on the achievements of the earliest civilisations before focusing on Ancient Egypt. We will integrate our world knowledge and solidify the importance of geographical features when ancient civilisations established their settlements.

- When and where did ancient civilisations start?
- What were the achievements of Ancient Sumer, the Indus Valley and the Shang Dynasty? (We will be looking at writing systems, time systems, town planners, public health, structures of government)
- Who were the Ancient Egyptians?
- What was life like in Ancient Egypt?

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, and significance.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

In Geography, we will introduce key geographical language, consolidate our use of 8-point compass directions and use digital maps, including the zoom function.

RE

In RE, we will explore the question: 'Who are the saints of God and why are they important?' We will learn about different saints, comparing and contrasting their stories, and exploring their significance to religious believers.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Spanish

In Spanish this half term, we will continue to revise our newly-acquired language before moving onto colours. We will also begin to learn about the gender of nouns and direct articles.

Art

Our art focus this half term will be on telling stories through drawing and making. We will be developing the following skills:

- Explore how artists can be inspired by others working in other art forms.
- Understand how artists use sketchbooks to understand and explore their own response.
- Use a sketchbook to make visual notes, explore ideas and test materials.
- Make a sculpture using materials to model, inspired by a character in a book/film.
- Reflect and share how the sculpture captures feelings about the original character.
- Enjoy and evaluate the sculptures made by others.
- Share feedback with others.

Music

In Music this half term, we will be developing the following skills:

- Listen to the popular music genre and respond with simple recorded melodies.
- Compose digital music to respond to the genre of the chosen piece.
- Create singing repertoire in the style of the genre studied.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE

Our PE units this half term are Tag Rugby and Gymnastics.

Tag Rugby

Experience adapted, small-sided games of tag rugby. Learn the basics of passing backwards and the key principles of the game.

Gymnastics

Develop a broad range of balance skills with 1, 2, 3 and 4 points of contact. Understand how to improve and evaluate success. Develop flexibility, strength, control, technique and balance whilst linking actions to make sequences of movement. Sequences can include balances, shapes, jumps and travel movements.

PSHE

Our unit this half term is 'Diversity and Community'.

- Describe aspects of their identity, and to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others
- Recognise difference and respect diversity, including the importance of recognising and challenging stereotypes
- Know about groups and communities that exist locally, and the roles some people play in the community
- Understand some different forms the media can take and some of what it does
- Understand some of the needs of and how to care for the local environment
- Know about the needs of animals, including pets, and the responsibilities of humans towards them

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths

Multiple, dividend, divisor, equation, equal, repeated addition, multiple, product, factor, remainder, grouping, sharing, interpret, bar chart, pictogram, data, axis, graph, tally chart, pie chart, sum, most/least popular, most/least common, frequency, diagram.

English

Mystery vocabulary: in a heart-stopping moment, without hesitation, ice-cold draught, distress, panic, daunting, ebony, shadowy, vociferous, petrifying, chilling, daunting, gloomy, murky, shrill, ghastly, noise, shattered, screeching stairs, crumbling temple, cursed, flickering lights.

Preposition, root word, suffix, prefix, adverbial, chronological, first/third person, fact, opinion, expanded noun phrase, clause, personification.

Science

Flowering plants, structure, roots, leaves, flower, nutrition, support, reproduction, air, light, minerals, soil, fertiliser, seeds, pollination, blossom, buds, petals, bulb, germinate, fruit, chlorophyll, transportation, nutrients, seed formation, seed dispersal.

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, Luxor, oasis, deserts, Gods, Deities, shaduf.

Geography

Hemispheres, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Arctic and Antarctic Circle.