

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 his/her 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 spooky 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:

Continue 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

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

- I can notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance
- I can observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others describe magnets as having two poles
- I can predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.
- I can 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 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:

Our history focus this half term will be on the achievements of the earliest civilisations before focusing on Ancient Egypt.

- When and where did ancient civilisations start?
- What were the achievements of Ancient Sumer, the Indus Valley and the Shang Dynasty? (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.
- 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: ‘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.

Spanish:

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

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art: We will be looking at different portrait artists, such as Marc Chagall and Rene Magritte, learning about their work before imitating their style and creating our own pieces of artwork.

We will develop the following skills:

- Demonstrate experience in different grades of pencil and other implements to draw different forms and shapes.
- Mix colour, shades and tones with increasing confidence.
- Confidently create different effects and textures with paint according to what is needed for the task.

Music:

Improvise

- Improvise using instruments.
- Explore genre while using major/minor scales to improvise in the ‘style of’.
- Create polyrhythms using instruments and record the findings.
- Improvising melodies in a variety of genre.
- Understanding expression, phrasing, ostinati and employing technique
- when using major and minor scales.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are **Swimming and Tag Rugby**.

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)

Tag Rugby

Experience adapted small sided games of Tag Rugby. Learning the basics of passing backwards and the key principles of the game.

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.

We will also discuss anti-bullying, exploring what bullying is and how we can ensure it does not happen at our school.

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

Force, push, contact, surface, magnet, magnetic, attract, repel, poles, gravity, air resistance, mass, friction, newton, compress, surface, move, effect, slide, rub, repel, attract, turn, twist...

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