

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.
- Draw inferences from the text.
- Asking questions to improve understanding of a text.
- Discuss words that capture the reader's interests and imagination.
- 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, focusing on the following skills:

- Use the 5Ws to summarise a news story in an opening paragraph
- Use a range of different openers to link ideas
- Use direct speech, accurately punctuated.
- Inform our writing through research.

We will also be writing persuasive letters:

- Use a range of causal conjunctions.
- Structure our ideas to form a cohesive argument
- Use evidence, through varied sentence structure, to support our view.
- Consider the purpose and audience for our writing.

In grammar, we will explore the following areas: Use compound and complex sentences and identify main and subordinate clauses; use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech; express time, place and 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/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

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

- I know what data is,
- I can explain the difference between data and information.
- I can create a table (eg to collect results)
- I can use a computer to collect data.
- I can 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/DT: We will be developing our skills in creating a Pharaoh's headdress using collage, before creating our own canopic jars.

We will develop the following skills:

- Design a product through detailed, labelled drawing.
- Consider necessary textiles and fabrics, aesthetic aspects such as pattern, proposed audience and how fabric will be attached during the planning.
- Use a range of tools and equipment to create a toy, selecting appropriate textiles according to their functional properties.
- Consider how to embellish and add detail to designs.
- Evaluate finished product against the design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.

Music:

Performing

- 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:

Our PE units this half term are Gymnastics and OAA (Outdoor and Adventurous Activities)

Gymnastics

Perform short movement phrases, linking jumping actions together. Develop jumps on and off the apparatus and link with travel movements, with a partner to produce a routine. Land all jumps safely using apparatus and mats. Use keywords to evaluate own/ others work.

OAA

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

PSHE:

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

- Use the scientific terms penis, testicles, breast and vagina and explain which parts are male and which are female
- Give several examples of the capabilities of their own bodies
- Describe familiar hygiene routines and understand the reasons for doing these things
- Anticipate new responsibilities for their personal hygiene
- Explain how common illnesses are spread and be able to describe how they can prevent the spread of one such illness.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths

Approximately, close to, under, over, pounds, pence, temperature, weight, measuring, scale, length, perimeter, centimetre, millimetre, kilometre, distance apart...between...to...from, side, narrow, wider, further, shorter, grams, kilograms, litres, millilitres, depth, volume, capacity,

English

Headline, strap line, newspaper, column, summary, 5Ws (who, what, where, why, when), quotation, report, summary, caption, persuasive, address, sincerely, formal, consequently, however, therefore, moreover, additionally, instructions, greeting, conclusion, debate, argument, opinion, fact, reason, support.

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, burial, sarcophagus, mummification, natron, tomb, Canopic jars, pyramid, Nile, Tutankhamun, headdress, chambers, Pharaoh, Sphinx, scrolls, hieroglyphics, scarab beetle, Valley of the Kings and Queens, slaves, Cairo, Luxor, oasis, deserts, gods, deities, shaduf