

Year 2 Newsletter

Spring 2

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Where in the World?

In this topic, we will be learning about:

- Countries from each continent, particularly Australia, India, Mexico, Canada, Kenya and Italy.
- We will think about geography, culture and art.
- How and where people may choose to worship.
- How living things are suited to different habitats around the world.

Our Key Texts this half term are:

- Lila and the Secret of Rain
 - Rainbow Bird
 - Meerkat Mail
 - Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox
 - Katie in London
- And many more stories from around the world!

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

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

- Listening to, discussing and expressing views about a wide range of contemporary and classic poetry, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond which they can read independently.
- Discuss the sequence of events within a book and how items of information are related.
- Checking that the text makes sense to him/her as he/she reads and corrects inaccurate reading.
- Discuss favourite words and phrases.
- Predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far.

Writing:

In Year 2, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Write for different purposes to develop positive attitudes and stamina for writing.
- Write about real events to develop positive attitudes and stamina for writing.
- Consider what he/she is going to write before beginning by planning or saying out loud what we are going to write about.
- Make simple additions, revisions and corrections to his/her own writing by evaluating his/her writing with the teacher and other pupils.

We will be writing journey stories and we will focus on developing the following specific skills:

- Use dialogue and begin to use punctuation to show this.
- Use verbs and adverbs to show how a character is feeling.
- Use subordination and co-ordination.

We will be writing non-chronological reports, including the following skills:

- Using headings and sub-headings.
- Include facts in our writing.
- Use connectives to link our ideas.

In grammar, we will be covering the following areas: brackets, exclamation marks, the use of bullet points, subheadings to organise information, commas in expanded noun phrases and in lists, subordination and co-ordination.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Geometry: Properties of Shape

Identify and describe the properties of 2-D shapes, including the number of sides and symmetry in a vertical line.

Identify and describe the properties of 3-D shapes, including the number of edges, vertices and faces.

Identify 2-D shapes on the surface of 3-D shapes, for example a circle on a cylinder and a triangle on a pyramid.

Compare and sort common 2-D and 3-D shapes and everyday objects.

Geometry - Position and Direction

Order and arrange combinations of mathematical objects in patterns.

Use mathematical vocabulary to describe position, direction and movement, including distinguishing between rotation as a turn and in terms of right angles for quarter, half and three-quarter turns (clockwise and anti-clockwise), and movement in a straight line.

Fractions

Recognise, find, name and write fractions $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length, shape, set of objects or quantity.

Write simple fractions e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$ of $6 = 3$ and recognise the equivalence of two quarters and one half.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science.

Our unit of science this half term is focused on animals in their environments, making connections with our Geography learning. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- Identify how animals survive in the desert, rainforest and polar regions, and explore the conditions that woodlice prefer in their habitat.
- Explore the different stages in an animal's life cycle
- Explore the living things within our school's microclimate

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Use simple features to compare, group and sort
- Use simple secondary sources
- Make simple observations using simple equipment.
- Notice patterns and relationships, with support
- Communicate findings in a range of ways and begin to use simple scientific language, with support

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on simulation, looking at how computers can be used to test real-world activities.

- Know what simulation means.
- Explain why computers are sometimes used to control things.
- Explain why computers are sometimes used to simulate things.
- Use a program to simulate a physical system.
- Predict how a computer program will behave.
- Argue what problems are best solved by either computer programs or humans.

We will also learn about how to use keywords to find information on the internet.

- I can use the Internet purposefully and safely to answer specific questions.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Geography

Our focus this half term will be learning about countries in the wider world and exploring their similarities and differences with the United Kingdom.

We will be covering the following areas:

- Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify countries, continents and oceans.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the UK, and a small area of a contrasting non-European country (India, Kenya)
- Consider reasons why there might be differences between different countries.
- Identify the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

RE

In RE this half term, we will be learning about Sikhism.

We will be exploring key concepts of Sikhism including the following:

- Explore what life is like in a Sikh community
- Understand that the 5 Ks are symbols of the Khalsa
- Explore the inside of a Gurdwara
- Explore celebrations and make comparisons.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art: We will explore different styles of drawing and painting, looking at animals from different countries (for example Aboriginal Art and Rangoli, Warli and Amate paintings.)

We will develop the following skills:

- Begin to control the types of marks made with different painting techniques eg. layering, mixing media, adding texture.
- Control the types of marks made with the range of media.
- Draw on different surfaces with a range of media.
- Use a sketchbook to plan and develop simple ideas.

DT: As part of our 'Where is the World' topic, we will learn about different dishes from around the world, understanding where our food comes from and the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet.

Music: Listening

Exploring music from different parts of the world.

Children will listen to and identify key characteristics of different world music as well as learning traditional songs from around the world.

Children will be introduced to timbre and consider how to describe the sounds of different instruments.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Gymnastics and Fundamentals.

Gymnastics

- Positions of stillness referring to shapes on varying numbers of contact points and body parts.
- Transfer of weight e.g. from one position of stillness to another.
- Short movement phrases – linking positions of stillness, jumps and introduce travel movements.

Fundamentals

- Refine the skills of running successfully, changing directions on the move.
- Develop throwing, catching, striking and dribbling skills and play small games.

PSHE:

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

- Recognise babies, children and adults of different ages and put them into age order
- Understand that human babies grow inside their mothers
- Describe the main physical developments which take place in early childhood
- Describe some of the changes in responsibilities and expectations during early childhood
- Understand a baby's basic needs
- Understand how dependent a baby is on parents/carers to provide its basic needs.
- What makes all families special.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths- 2-D shapes, 3D shapes, rectangular, circular, triangular, pentagon, hexagon, octagon, cube, cuboid, pyramid, corner, side, vertices, edge, face, surface, properties, line symmetry, position and direction, turns, clockwise, anticlockwise, straight line, fractions, quarter, one half, two halves, third, unit fractions, non-unit fractions, numerator, denominator,

English- postcard, non-chronological report, headings, sub-headings, narrative, wishing tale, explanation text, brackets, commas, bullet points.

Science- animals, habitats, desert, rainforest, polar regions, life cycle, microhabitat, woodland, hedgerow, pond, meadow, living, dead.

Geography – atlas, continent, equator, human features, physical features, weather, landmarks, climate, tradition, culture