

Year 2 Newsletter

Summer 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Giants, Beanstalks and Castles!

In this topic, we will be learning about castles and their importance in history alongside a Science unit on plants. We will link these ideas through fairy tales, in particular Jack and the Beanstalk (and different versions of this!)

Our Key Texts this half term are:

Jack and the Beanstalk
Jack and the Baked Beanstalk
Kate and the Beanstalk
The BFG
The Tiny Seed
The Boy Who Grew Dragons

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

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

- Become increasingly familiar with and retelling a wider range of stories, fairy stories and traditional tales.
- Discuss and clarify the meanings of new words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary.
- Draw on what we already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher.
- 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 narratives about personal experiences and the experiences of others (real and fictional)
- Consider what he/she is going to write before beginning by writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary.
- Make simple additions, revisions and corrections to his/her own writing by evaluating his/her writing with the teacher and other pupils.
- Read aloud what he/she has written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear.

We will be writing explanation texts and we will focus on developing the following specific skills:

- Use subordinating conjunctions.
- Use structural features of an explanation text.
- Use different sentence structures (ie rhetorical questions)

We will be writing narratives, using adaptations of Jack and the Beanstalk as our inspiration, including the following skills:

- Describe a character's thoughts and feelings and use expanded noun phrases.
- Use speech punctuation
- Use a range of time connectives.

In grammar, we will be covering the following areas: imperative verbs, adverbs, expanded noun phrases, commas in a list, using paragraphs correctly, and identifying different word classes.

Our Maths learning this half term:

We will be consolidating some of our learning from this year.

Continue with 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.

Measure: Length, Capacity and Mass

Choose and use appropriate standard units to estimate and measure length/height in any direction (m/cm) and mass (kg/g); to the nearest appropriate unit, using rulers, scales.

Choose and use appropriate standard units to estimate and measure temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) and capacity (litres/ml) using thermometers and measuring vessels.

Compare and order lengths, mass, volume/capacity and record the results using $>$, $<$ and $=$.

We will also revisit position and direction, and addition and subtraction, alongside practising our multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

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 observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- I can find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Use simple features to compare, group and sort.
- Use simple secondary sources
- Make simple observations
- Notice patterns and relationships, with support.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on creating presentations, combining text and images to present a topic.

- I can apply a border to my page.
- I can insert, rotate and resize images
- I can record audio.
- I know how to make quality recordings.
- I can upload photos to create a photo slideshow.

We will also learn about how to use the internet to find information, learning that not all websites are not equally good sources.

- I can recognise when a website is appropriate for my age.
- I can use the Internet purposefully and safely to answer specific questions.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History

Our focus this half term will be on significant individuals from the past.

We will be covering the following areas:

- Learning about Queen Elizabeth I, writing questions we would have asked and recalling key facts.
- Learning about Queen Elizabeth II, her family and what she is famous for.
- Comparing Queen Elizabeth I and II.
- Learning about the structure of castles, their location and what they were used for.
- Learning about different jobs in a castle.

Develop the following historical enquiry skills:

- Ask and answer questions.
- Choose and use parts of stories and other sources to show knowledge and understanding of key features of events.
- Use a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms.

RE

In RE this half term, we will be learning about artefacts that are important to different religions.

We will make comparisons between different religious belief systems, and investigate artefacts from Christianity, Islam and Judaism. We will also identify different religious symbols and their importance.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art/DT:

We will explore pattern and symbol by exploring shields and designing and creating our own shields. We will also produce observational drawings of plants, linked to our Science topic, and turn these into Van Gogh-style paintings. Finally, we will look at castles and create prints using engravings.

We will develop the following skills:

- Continue to investigate textures and produce an expanding range of patterns.
- Use a sketchbook to plan and develop simple ideas.
- Continue to control the types of marks made with the range of media.
- Use a brush to produce marks appropriate to work.
- Make simple marks using rollers and printing palettes.
- Take simple print i.e. mono-printing

Music: Composing and Writing

Work in groups to compose a short piece of music using tuned and non-tuned percussion and voices.

Children must demonstrate transcribing ability by writing out one part of their composition (using Kodaly rhythms or their own method).

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Mini Athletics and Yoga.

Mini Athletics

To learn a push and pull throw, 2 footed and 1-2 footed jumping action and learn a variety of running speeds needed for different running events. Use in isolation

Yoga

To further develop basic yoga actions through stories and Yoga cards, showing the ability to copy and repeat. Develop balance and co-ordination.

PSHE:

Our units this half term is 'Managing Risks' and 'Safety Contexts'.

Managing Risks

- Name a risky situation and suggest ways of reducing risk.
- Name some emotions people might feel in a risky situation.
- Say their full name and address and know when this might be useful.
- Suggest some people who might help them in a risky situation.
- Understand what is meant by an emergency and know ways they and others might help in one.

Safety Contexts

- Recognise dangers that traffic poses to them as car passengers and pedestrians.
- Identify safe places to cross in the local area.
- Know that wearing suitable clothing, a hat and sun cream are ways to stay safer in the sun.
- Explain a simple strategy for action if they are lost.
- Explain simple precautions to take when using playgrounds.
- Understand ways of preventing common accidents in school or on the school playground.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths- add, subtract, multiply, divide, altogether, difference, groups of, sharing, comparing, ordering, fraction, equal parts, numerator, denominator, measure, scale, centimetre, metre, kilogram, gram, kilometre, litre, millilitre, capacity, volume, length, mass, capacity, position, direction, turn, temperature, degree

English- imperative verbs, adverb, suffix, apostrophe, capital letter, full stop, exclamation marks, expanded noun phrase, edit, sentence, statement, question, commas, nouns, verbs, adjectives, paragraphs

Science- plants, seeds, germination, leaves, stem, roots, sunlight, soil, grow, growth, temperature, lifecycle, reproduce

History – Britain, United Kingdom, Queen, King, royal family, past, present, castle, knight, protection, moat, tower, sword, compass, map, location, capital, banquet, monarch, coronation