

Year 4 Newsletter

Summer 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

A Mediterranean Menu

In this topic, we will use and develop our geographical skills within the Mediterranean region as well as compare life in the Mediterranean with life in the UK.

Our Key Texts include Varjak Paw

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

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

- Continue to listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and reference texts.
- Ask questions to improve our understanding of texts with increasing complexity.
- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence clearly taken from the text.
- Sequence and summarise information from texts.
- Discuss vocabulary in context and evaluate an author's choice of language.

Writing:

In Year 4, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan his/her writing by discussing and recording ideas.
- Draft and write in narratives, creating characters with consideration for the audience and purpose.
- Draft and write non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices.
- Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of his/her own writing and suggesting improvements.
- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors, including the use of the apostrophe for possession, speech punctuation and the use of the comma for fronted adverbials.

We will be writing story openers, focused on characterisation, and will be developing the following skills:

- Add extra details to show not tell.
- Describe a character's emotions using senses.
- Use different sentence structure: fronted adverbials, relative and embedded clauses.

We will also be writing instruction texts and will be focusing on the following skills:

- Use the structure of an instruction text: ie diagrams, sub-headings, opening statements.
- Use a formal, impersonal tone.
- Use technical vocabulary, adverbs and adverbials of time.

In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas: expanded noun phrases, embedded and relative clauses, relative pronouns, different sentence openers.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Geometry - Position and Direction

- Plot positions on a 2-D grid as positive number coordinates.
- Describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down.
- Plot points given and draw sides to complete a given polygon.

Decimals

- Find and write decimal equivalents using tenths and hundredths.
- Find and write decimal equivalents of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Divide one and two digit numbers by 10 and 100 and can explain the effect this has on place value.
- Round decimals using tenths to the nearest whole number.
- Compare numbers with the same number of decimal places (up to two decimal places).
- Solve simple money and measure problems involving decimals with up to two decimal places.

Statistics

- Interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs.
- Solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms, tables and other graphs.

We will continue to develop our counting and times tables skills throughout our lessons, in preparation for the Multiplication Check in the Summer term.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

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

- I can compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases
- I can observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- I can identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Recognise when a simple fair test is necessary and help to decide how to set it up
- Group, sort and classify using criteria and simple keys
- Recognise when and how secondary sources need to be used to answer questions
- 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 will consist of two halves, exploring the uses of computing in real life: data collection and robotics, using Lego WeDo.

- I know what data is and can explain the difference with information.
- I can use software.
- **I can use a computer to collect data.**
- **I can use a computer to analyse data to show something useful.**
- I can explain why computers are sometimes used to control things.
- I can evaluate how well a piece of work does what it's supposed to do.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on plagiarism and giving credit to people for their work.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Geography:

Our geography learning will focus upon Europe, specifically the Mediterranean countries, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

We will also explore geographical similarities and differences by comparing a region of the UK and a region in a European country.

We will be developing the following geographical skills:

- **Locational knowledge:** Use a map or atlas to locate some countries and cities in Europe
- **Place knowledge:** Compare and describe similarities and differences between some regions in Europe and the UK (eg: compare cities and their surrounding areas).
- **Physical geography:** Explore climate zones, mountains, seas and the impact physical factors can have on human geography.
- **Human geography:** Can describe the main land uses within urban areas and the activities that take place there; describe the distinctive characteristics of settlements with different functions and different sizes.
- **Geographical skills:** Use maps, globes and digital mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

RE:

In RE, we will be exploring Christian worship and consider how and why churches are different.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be revising colours and then exploring shapes and the use of plurals.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art:

We will explore different artists from the Mediterranean, exploring cubist techniques and creating art in these styles. We will develop the following skills:

- Use sketchbooks to collect and record visual information from different sources.
- Develop techniques to create intricate patterns using different grades of pencil and other implements/media to create lines, marks and develop tone.
- Begin to work in the style of an artist.
- Create repeating patterns

DT: We will create scone-based pizzas as part of our topic.

As part of this, we will understand and apply the principles of a healthy and varied diet through discussion and use different cooking techniques (ie weighing, mixing, kneading, shaping and baking) to create our bread.

Music: Listening

- Listen, create and evaluate a range of live and recorded music from different traditions, genres, styles and times, responding appropriately to the context.
- Share opinions and own and others' music and be willing to justify these.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE: Our PE units this half term are Athletics and Kwik Cricket.

Athletics

Use the push and pull technique, perfect the long jump and learn the triple jump technique. Develop running speeds to be used within a competitive environment and learn the full relay with a baton.

Kwik Cricket

Play the game of kwik cricket by playing adapted games and actual Kwik cricket. Develop bowling (push bowl) batting (forward drive/sideways) and fielding skills. Introduce the scoring system and be confident in all areas.

PSHE:

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

Relationships and Sex Education

- Identify the main stages of the human lifecycle and identify the stage of an individual with reasonable accuracy
- Explain that a baby grows from a male seed and a female egg
- Explain ideas about being grown up and show they have a relatively realistic view of adulthood
- Identify an area for which they can take more responsibility
- Explain some ways that parents/carers are responsible for babies and understand that these responsibilities are based on the fact that a baby cannot look after itself.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths:

Decimals: Fractions, decimals, decimal fractions, tenths, hundredths, decimal point, decimal place, equivalent, part, whole

Geometry: Symmetry, symmetrical, translation, transformation, reflection, rotation, regular, irregular, line, centre, translate, rotate, reflection

Statistics: bar, chart, graph, plot, scales, axis, interval, x-axis, y-axis, discrete, continuous, line graphs, survey, data

English:

Connective phrases, pronouns, sentence openings, apostrophes, clauses, conjunctions, determiners, adjectives, nouns, adverbs,

Science:

Solid, liquid, gas, state, matter, particle, solidifying, freezing, melting, condensing, evaporating, thermometer, temperature, Celsius, Fahrenheit, degrees, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, ice, rain, clouds, vapour, transpiration, cycle, temperature change, Water Cycle

Geography:

Europe, The Mediterranean, The Mediterranean Sea, country, continent, location, north, south, east, west, region, map, Atlas, political map, relief map, tectonic map, climate map, scale, key, aerial view, climate, land, water, circulation current, Atlantic Sea, Straits of Gibraltar, Levant, North Africa, the Balkans, economy, culture, environment, population, tourism, human geography, natural geography, capital cities, peninsula country, capital city, Apennine Mountains, enquiry, research, comparison, similarities, differences