

Year 5 Newsletter

Spring 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Our Universe!

In this topic, we will be exploring space, the Universe and our Solar System. We will be using our learning to write and present information, and make links to our Geography learning on Earth.

Our key text this half term will be 'The Jamie Drake Equation' by Christopher Edge.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

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

- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.
- Check that a book makes sense to him/her, discussing his/her understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context.
- Distinguish between statements of fact and opinion.
- Understand what he/she reads in increasingly complex texts by predicting what might happen from details stated and implied.
- Participate in discussions about books that are read to him/her and those that can be read for himself/herself, building on his/her own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously and with clear reasoning.

Writing: In Year 5, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan his/her writing by identifying the audience for, and purpose of the writing, using other similar writing as models for his/her own.
- Draft and write by using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader e.g. headings, bullet points, underlining.
- Draft and write by using devices to build cohesion within a paragraph.
- Evaluate and edit by proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning.
- Proof-read for punctuation errors, including use of brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis. Use of commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity.

We will be writing adventure stories based on the text 'Alien Landing' by Pie Corbett. We will be developing the following skills:

- Use and punctuate speech correctly
- Use a 'trigger' to catch the reader's interest e.g. someone wants something, is warned against something, has to go somewhere.
- Use a range of techniques to describe setting and characters (e.g. personification).

We will be writing explanation texts using Space as a stimulus. We will use the following skills:

- Vary sentence openings, e.g. use adverb starters (Unfortunately) mixed with statements.
- Use descriptive language to illustrate key points and help the reader build a picture of what is being explained.
- Use technical language, explaining what it means where necessary.
- Use different types of sentences to help engage the reader.

In grammar, we will be developing our punctuation skills, through the use of dashes and semi-colons, as well as building our sentence skills through expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and causal connectives.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Fractions

- Compare and order fractions whose denominators are all multiples of the same number.
- Find and name equivalent fractions of a given fraction.
- Identify mixed numbers and improper fractions and convert from one to another such as $2/5 + 4/5 = 6/5 = 1$ and $1/5$.
- Add and subtract fractions whose denominators are all multiples of the same number.
- Multiply proper fractions by whole numbers using objects and pictures.

Measure - Area and Perimeter

- Measure and calculate the perimeter of composite rectilinear shapes in centimetres and metres.
- Calculate and compare the area of rectangles (including squares), and including using standard units, square centimetres (cm^2), square metres (m^2), and estimate the area of irregular shapes.

Throughout the term, we will also be revisiting less confident areas of our prior learning and developing our mental arithmetic skills.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

Our unit of science this half term will be on the Solar System, focused on the following knowledge areas:

- I can describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system
- I can describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth
- I can describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies
- I can explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object
- I can use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky

We will be developing the following skill areas:

- Recognise which secondary sources will be the most useful and separate opinion from fact. Consider how scientific ideas have developed over time.
- Decide what observations to make, what to measure and how long for
- Use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify ideas.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on presenting information and producing presentations.

- I can create multiple pages using text and images.
- I can link pages using hyperlinks.
- I can highlight the features of a good presentation.
- I can include video in my presentation.
- I can keep a consistent design throughout.
- I can include animations and slide transitions where suitable.
- I can use my file to present a topic to others.

Our digital literacy focus this half term is looking at spam, the forms it takes, and strategies for dealing with it.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Geography:

Our geography theme for this half term is to develop our understanding of world geography and developing our geographical language, comparing the UK to North America. We will cover the following areas:

- Identify the position and significance of latitude and longitude.
- Identify the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn,
- Use maps to find the Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Describe and understand key aspects of climate zones.
- Locate the world's countries using maps to focus on North America.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of North America.

We will be developing the following geographical skills:

- Can identify the position of the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and understand the significance of longitude and latitude.
- Use this to identify the Northern and Southern hemisphere and the Arctic and Antarctic circles.
- Locate places studied in relation to the Equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and relate this to their time zone, climate, seasons and vegetation.
- Describe the climate of a region and how plants and animals are adapted to it.
- Understand how food production is influenced by climate.

RE:

In RE, we will be exploring the question: 'What is it like to be a Christian?' We will be looking at what this is like in the UK as well as other parts of the world.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be revisiting prior learning – we will then be learning about the weather and Spanish terms.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

DT:

Children will create space models based on the Mars rover – they will plan how to create different structures, choose appropriate materials, finish and add final details.

We will develop the following skills:

- Develop ideas to inform the design of innovative, functional and appealing products by looking at, exploring and analysing examples of similar structures.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion and annotated sketches
- Select from a range of tools and equipment to perform their practical task (e.g. cutting, shaping, joining, finishing).
- Select and use a wider range of materials and components, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.
- Evaluate their final design against their own, original design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.

Music: Performing

- Learning to perform as an ensemble while exploring timbre and texture of everyday sound.
- Enjoy making, playing, changing and combining sounds; experiment with different ways of producing sounds with voice, musical instruments, simple everyday sounds...

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Football and Dance.

Football

Improve skills of moving with the ball, with control, passing and shooting with accuracy. Introduce and develop game play skills of attacking and defending, moving in and out of space.

Dance

To explore and link motifs and movement phrases from different dance styles/eras. Apply choreographic devices of canon, unison, matching and mirroring, speed, direction, order and levels to motifs.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Diversity and Community'

- Recognise aspects of their identity and understand how other people can influence their perception of themselves.
- Describe the ethnic make-up of their community and different groups that live in Britain.
- Recognise the negative effects of stereotyping and prejudice.
- Know about how they and others, including volunteers, contribute to the community.
- Understand about the role of the media and its possible influences.
- Understand some ways of caring for the environment and the contribution they can make.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths: Equal share, fractions, numerator, denominator, proper fraction, improper fractions, mixed fractions, rounding, ordering, ascending, descending, divide, simplify, reduced to, cancel, equal to, equivalent, tenth/hundredth/thousandth, in every, for every, area, perimeter, base, height, side, volume, squared, cubed, surface, width, square centimetre/metre/millimetre

English : Present tense, past tense, modal verbs, past progressive tense, present perfect tense, prepositions, questions, commands, exclamations, speech, parenthesis, expanded noun phrases, speech, dash, semi-colon

Science: astronomer, planets, celestial body, universe, eclipse, solar, lunar, asteroid, comet, moon, sun, axis, rotation, orbit, phases of the moon, constellation, secondary sources, research

Geography: Hemisphere, Equator, Prime Meridian, time zones, climate zones, latitude, longitude, atlas, human and physical features, biomes, Arctic and Antarctic circle, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn.