

Art/Design & Technology

Our Art topic this half term links to our history topic with a more modern era as the children will be exploring and creating Stone Age style cave art and comparing it to the idea of identity and self in Pop Art. We will explore how the people of the Stone Age created charcoal and paint to create their pictures and make our own using similar methods. Then we will look at techniques the Pop Artists of the mid-1900s onwards.

Science

Our topic this half term will be electricity. We will be making circuits and learning how to draw and label them correctly using appropriate terminology such as “switch”, “cell” and “buzzer”. The children will discover how electricity moves around a circuit and do investigations as to which materials are good conductors of electricity and which materials make effective insulators.

R.E.

In R.E. the children will be learning about the concept of the holy trinity and the names of God. We will also look at the story of the baptism of Jesus, the symbolism of water, and how the ceremony has changed over time.

Long, Long Ago Year 4 Autumn 1 2023

Computing

This half term the children will be discovering collaborative working in I.T. systems – working together on documents alongside reinforcing our knowledge of safer internet use.

P.E.

This year the children will be swimming each Wednesday. We will be trying the pool at White Meadows school as it offers more time in the water, which can only be beneficial when gaining more confidence in the water, or, for our more accomplished swimmers, improving technique. The children will also be preparing for sports day with lessons focused around athletics.

History

Our History topic this half term is Stone Age to Iron Age. We will learn about prehistoric Britain and how it changed the landscape forever. We will learn to read timelines, find out about technological developments and how archaeologists learn more about the past. We are lucky enough to have two workshops coming into school this term to illuminate what life was like in this fascinating period of history.

French

Continuing from last year, the children will be building on their knowledge of the French language, in order to understand, read and write simple sentences covering a range of different topics and scenarios. Although we will be using one of the schemes from last year, French will be taught by our subject specialist, Mrs Yarrow.

Music

With Miss Johnson providing our specialist teaching in Music, it will all be about pitch and tempo this half term in Music with the goal of learning how to harmonize together. The children will also learn how to perform an ostinato (a repeated musical phrase). The children will also be continue to practise their recorder skills weekly with Mrs Virgoe.

PSHCE

This half term our topic is ‘Being me in my world.’ The children will consider the idea of rewards and consequences. Do we need to be rewarded for making the right choices? What are the consequences if we make certain decisions? Are rewards and consequences just part of the deal when we make our own decisions? We will also be discussing and completing our class charter.

English

Reading

In Guided Reading sessions, the children will be learning to use inference, retrieval, and summarising to explore and understand larger texts. We will develop reading speed and vocabulary through twice weekly fluency lessons, as well as questioning skills in our comprehension lessons.

To support your child, you need to be reading with them for at least 5 minutes every day and discussing the books with them. If you would like support with this or have questions, please speak to a member of the class team.

Writing

We will be starting strong with our writing in Year 4 and will be doing daily handwriting lessons to work on letter formation and legibility.

Year 4 will be focusing on three different strands of writing: poetry, narrative, and non-fiction writing.

To support your child, you can encourage them to practise their writing at home by writing shopping lists, keeping a diary, or writing stories.

Maths

This half term, as ever with Maths, we will be starting with place value. We do this so often as a firm grasp of this concept is one of the keys to successful Mathematics (the other being a good recall of the times tables). We will then move on to addition and subtraction and then statistics – in this case plotting data onto different types of graphs. We will continue with Mindbend Mondays and Mental Magicians.

This year there will be a focus on the times tables as the children will be sitting a national multiplication test during the summer term. We will be doing TT Rockstars every morning when the children come in and then concentrating on a single multiplication table each week in a bid to get completely proficient by the summer.