

Tortilla Sun .. New Mexico .. Land of Enchantment ...Yr5



Our learning this term focusses around the novel 'Tortilla Sun' by Jennifer Cervantes.



When twelve-year-old Izzy discovers a beat-up baseball marked with the words "Because magic" while unpacking in yet another new apartment, she is determined to figure out what it means. What secrets does this old ball have to tell? Her mom certainly isn't sharing any especially when it comes to Izzy's father, who died before Izzy was born. But when she spends the summer in her Nana's remote New Mexico village, Izzy discovers long-buried secrets that come alive in an enchanted landscape of watermelon mountains, whispering winds, and tortilla suns. Infused with the flavour of the southwest and sprinkled with just a pinch of magic, this heartfelt debut novel is as rich and satisfying as Nana's homemade enchiladas.



English Writing Fiction

* the importance of setting (in-depth study of our text set in another country and very different environment)

*character development

*Flashbacks used as a form of non-linear narrative.

*personification

Non-fiction—

* explore the features of non-chronological reports. We will choose a topic area to research and write our own non-chronological reports.

* Newspaper reports

Punctuation and Grammar as outlined in the new curriculum

Reading

Class text Tortilla Sun

Guided Reading sessions

Spelling

We will be working weekly on spellings this term and your child may have small lists of spellings to practise at home. Please help them with these.

Knowledge & Understanding of the World

Science -Living things & Habitats

Differences in life cycles—we will compare the lifecycles of mammals, birds and plants. We will also look at the impact of environment on lifecycles and make comparison between plants, birds and animals in the UK and those in New Mexico. Life process of reproduction in some plants and animals

Geographical skills

We will start off with improving our locational knowledge using our geographical skills. The children will use maps and atlases as well as ICT resources to develop a strong sense of place in the context of New Mexico (we will discuss hemispheres, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and the Equator). We will then go on to explore the human and physical geography of New Mexico and compare this throughout with the human and physical geography of the UK.

New Mexico also has a fascinating history and we will touch on this through our study of the ancient and modern civilisations and culture of this area.

What are we aiming for.....? We will be building our learning towards a finale for the end of term. We hope this will take the form of a multi-cultural arts and food festival where each KS2 class shares their new found knowledge from around the globe.

Maths

Our focus this term will be on fractions, decimals and percentages. The first half of term will cover converting improper fractions to mixed numbers, finding equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering fractions, adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions and using fractions for scaling activities.

After half term we will move on to decimals and percentages with regular reference back to fractions so that the children fully understand the relationship between these three aspects of maths.

As ever, times tables fluency will really help the children in the development of their knowledge and skills with fractions, so any support at home in this area would be most welcome.

Creative Development New Curriculum

Art -The work of artist Georgia O'Keefe and improve their mastery of art and design techniques

Design Technology - Structures and Textiles

Music - explore world music with a focus on Hispanic and tribal music to link to our New Mexico topic.

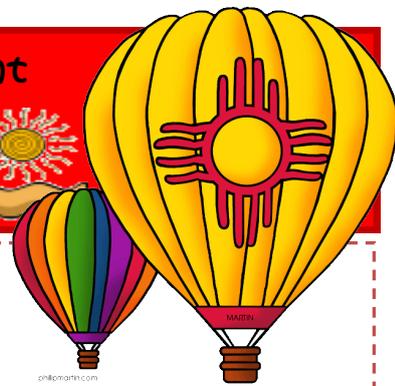
Computing Strand - robotics and systems

MFL

We will be looking at the French alphabet, naming and describing items of clothing, giving opinions and telling the time.



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Other useful info

If you need to contact me please either send an e-mail via the school office or pop in to class to see me. If you need to discuss something in more detail than is possible at the beginning or end of the school day please make an appointment to see me through the school office - Thanks. admin@kimpton.herts.sch.uk

PE Kit should be in school everyday please but feel free to wash it at weekends. The weather is now extremely cold and we still take the children outside for Games. ***It is essential that they have trainers and a tracksuit at this time of year. Kit will get very muddy.***

Planning and Preparation

I will not be teaching on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons. This is the allotted time I have been given for my teacher administration duties and paperwork. Class will be covered by Mrs Gill Vine.

Home learning will follow the same format as last term. The children will be given a grid of activities to select from and we ask that it be returned on Monday.

Physical Development Planned and led by Mr Muir

RE/PSHE/P4C

- * Respect
- * Managing Emotions
- * Judaism/Christianity/Easter



Some Diary Dates—Please look out for updates and new information in newsletters and on the school website.

Wed 11th Jan—Mrs Moore and Mrs Vine out at training

Mon 23rd Jan— Year 5 and 6 Joint Day trip (more details to follow soon)

Wed 25th Jan— Mrs Moore and Mrs Vine out at training.

Tuesday 7th Feb—Parent Consultations

Safer Internet Day

Thursday 9th Feb—Parent Consultations

Friday 10th Feb—End of first half term

HALF TERM

Monday 20th Feb—INSET Day

Thursday 2nd March—World Book Day

Friday 17th March—Year 5 Sharing Assembly

Friday 24th March—K’NEX Challenge

Friday 31st March—End of term

Reading

Please try to read with your child as often as you can. Daily reading would be ideal, but I understand that life is busy and that this is not always realistic.

Aim, try to read with or alongside your child four times a week please. There is a big emphasis on inference skills in upper KS2 and sharing stories together and discussing what’s behind the text is a great way to improve these skills. Reading a wide range of books, including some that are a bit beyond their reading level or confidence, will improve their vocabulary and open their minds to new authors.

I look forward to seeing you at Parent Consultations, if not before. Thank you for your continued support, best wishes Mrs C Moore

