

Maths

The focus for the start of the Spring term will be Fractions. The children will learn how to recognise and show, using diagrams, equivalent fractions with small denominators. They will then begin to compare and order fractions, explaining which is bigger or smaller and how they know. Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator within one whole and using resources to show their working, will be a key focus within this maths topic. Alongside our DT topic, the children will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes and creating nets of shapes. This will link to creating buildings, so please encourage your child to look at buildings and the shapes that they are made up of. Times tables, as always, are of high importance and regularly practice of these at home really makes a huge difference.

P.E.

Indoor P.E.: The children will be continuing with their swimming lessons. Please ensure that they have full swimming kits, hair tied back and no jewellery on.

Outdoor P.E.: The focus for outdoor P.E. will be multi-skills. This will involve the children trialling a variety of sports equipment and investigating their balancing skills, their co-ordination and their agility. The children will need to focus and concentrate, observing others and the way their own bodies move.

P.S.H.C.E.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education – The children will continue watching Newsround as part of our commitment to being a 'Rights Respecting School', encouraging the children's right to know what is going on in the world as well as being able to discuss what is happening in the news. They children will also be focussing on peer relationships, managing emotions within these and respecting equality and diversity.

Science

This term, pupils will be developing their knowledge of 'Rocks'. This will enable them to compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. Children will also be able to describe, in simple terms, how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock. The children will look more closely at rock formations in America – such as the Grand Canyon – and will explore why they are there and how they have occurred. Please look in your outdoor spaces and ask the children to observe the rocks that they can see on their own doorsteps.

The United States of America

Year 3, Spring 2019

Writing

This half term, much of our writing will be based on information that the children have learned about the USA.

Firstly, children will be creating postcards from a place, within North America, of their choice. Using descriptive language and creating comparisons to home will be the aim of this writing journey. If you have any postcards at home that you would be willing to share, these would be much appreciated.

Next, we will be asking the children to write descriptions of specific American landmarks. These will link to our DT project and be displayed at our showcase.

Throughout the topic, the children will be gathering information about the USA and will produce a whole class travel brochure. This will focus on the use of persuasive language and encompass a range of grammar that the children will have learned. Sharing travel brochures – for any country - at home would help the children to become familiar with this style of writing – any examples would be very welcome in school!

French

The children will be continuing to build on their knowledge of French and learning more about French life and culture. We will begin the term with a story based around the French festival of *La fête des Rois* which is celebrated on the 6th January throughout France.

We will continue to sing, play games and watch French children's programmes to immerse the children in French and enabling them to learn in a fun and exciting way.

Guided Reading

Within Guided Reading, children will be reading a variety of texts, including poetry and play scripts. The main focus of these sessions will be identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to the effect that the text has on the reader. Children will be asked to perform some scripts and to justify their thoughts and feelings about a particular piece of writing. Reading a range of genres at home will help to embed the skills taught in class.

R.E.

During Spring 1 and Spring 2, the children will be studying the life and times of Jesus. Their lessons with Miss Pennicott will focus on answering a variety of questions to enable the children to understand who he was, what he believed in and what his followers believe.

Geography

As the main subject driver for our topic, Geography will be our topic focus. The children will learn how to compare and describe landmarks and environmental features of the USA. They will look at the vast range of landscapes across North America and identify the environmental regions. The children will also re-visit their atlas skills and learn about the states of America. Alongside this, the children will discuss man-made and natural features and explore the impact that these may have on the environment. This will link with Science, maths, design and writing journeys.

Art and Design

As our focus country is America, during this half term the children will be examining the work of Jackson Pollock. Using his work as inspiration they will attempt to mimic his style, working with increasing control over the types of mark they make and experimenting with different effects.

The children will be designing and creating a whole-class model of an American city. This will involve learning new DT techniques such as measuring, scoring and evaluating to improve. Linking to maths, the children will design their own nets in order to create 3D structures, including some famous American landmarks. Any measuring, scoring and folding practice at home would be very helpful.