

Year 3 Newsletter

Summer 2

Our topic/theme this half term is

Our Islands!

In this topic, we will be learning about the main features and cities in the UK, our weather, our coastline and our local areas.

Our Key Texts this half term are:

Finn MacCool and the Giants' Causeway

The Big Book of the UK

The Mousehole Cat

The Wreck of the Zanzibar

Our English learning this half term:

Reading

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

- Listen to and discuss a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and poetry
- Draw inferences, such as inferring character's feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- Predict what might happen from details stated
- Identify themes in books
- Read aloud poems
- Discuss words that capture the reader's interests and imagination
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- Ask questions to improve understanding of a text

Writing

In our writing, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan writing by discussing and recording ideas within a given structure
- Draft and write in narratives, creating settings, characters and plots
- Proof-read for spelling errors and for punctuation.
- Read work aloud, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear

We will be writing our own myths and legends, focusing on the following skills:

- Show emotion through action
- Use verbs and adverbs accurately to show emotion
- Use conjunctions to link sentences and ideas
- Include accurately punctuated speech
- Include a range of descriptive devices
- Vary the openings to our sentences

We will also be looking at writing fact files linked to a specific topic using the following skills:

- Use facts rather than opinions
- Use bullet points
- Organise our ideas into appropriate paragraphs
- Keep information specific and precise

In grammar, we will explore the following areas: expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials (time and place), apostrophes for omission and possession.

Our Maths learning this half term:

This half term, we will be focusing on the following areas:

Measure: Time

- Tell and write the time from an analogue clock, including using Roman numerals from I to XII, and 12-hour and 24-hour clocks
- Estimate and read time with increasing accuracy to the nearest minute; record and compare time in terms of seconds, minutes, hours and o'clock; use vocabulary such as a.m./p.m., morning, afternoon, noon and midnight
- Know the number of seconds in a minute and the number of days in each month, year and leap year
- Compare durations of events, for example to calculate the time taken by particular events or tasks

Geometry: Properties of Shape

- Draw 2-D shapes and make 3-D shapes using modelling materials; recognise 3-D shapes in different orientations; and describe them
- Recognise that angles are a property of shape or a description of a turn
- Identify right angles, recognise that two right angles make a half-turn, three make three quarters of a turn and four a complete turn; identify whether angles are greater than or less than a right angle
- Identify horizontal and vertical lines and pairs of perpendicular and parallel lines

We will continue to develop our counting and mental maths skills throughout our maths units, as well as revisiting any previous misconceptions.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

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

- Recognise that we need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light
- Notice that light is reflected from surfaces
- Recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect our eyes
- Recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object
- Find patterns in the way that the size of shadows changes

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Make systematic observations
- Make decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of equipment needed
- Group, sort and classify using criteria and simple keys
- Notice natural patterns and decide what data to collect to identify them
- Draw simple conclusions (identifying differences, similarities and changes) and use simple scientific language
- With support, identify new questions arising from data

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on programming.

- Understand the meaning of 'debugging'
- Notice when programs go wrong
- Explain why programs need to be tested and debugged
- Explain why errors occur with a program
- Explain errors with my program
- Understand whether an algorithm has worked or not

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Geography

Our geography focus this half term will be learning about the UK, naming some major urban areas and use atlases to identify where they live and nearby counties.

We will be covering the following areas:

- Locate and describe some human and physical features of the UK and explain how some regions are different to others
- Identify distinct characteristics of UK urban areas and how these have changed over time
- Use four-figure grid reference and 8-point compass directions to locate human and physical features of the UK
- Investigate patterns of local land use
- Use digital maps, including the zoom function, to identify places in the UK

RE

In RE, we will continue to explore religious texts, with a focus on the Bible and its teachings about Jesus. We will also be finding references by looking at different chapters and verses.

Spanish

Journey around Latin America

Following in the footsteps of Oscar the Bolivian bear, we will look at a map of Latin America and identify different places, describing their location using the points of a compass. We will find out the vocabulary for different forms of transport before designing and describing a route around the region, detailing how we will travel to each place.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art

We will be making animated drawings and focus on the following skills:

- Talk about the work of other animators who make animations from their drawings.
- Share what I like, and how it makes me feel.
- Use my sketchbook to gather ideas from other artists, and start to think about a simple moving drawing I might make.
- Use observational skills to look at source material to inspire my character and make drawings.
- Use my imagination to think about how my character might move.
- Create a background for my character.
- Share my moving drawing, either through an animation or by showing classmates how it would move.
- Reflect and articulate my thoughts about my own artwork and that of my peers.

Music

This term, we will be focusing on composition.

- Compose harmony with score
- Record themes for media
- Develop our song writing skills
- Perform songs to peers

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE

Our PE units this half term are Athletics and Rounders

Athletics

To develop the push and pull technique, a variety of jumping actions linked to the long jump and triple jump and develop running speeds to be used within a competitive environment on Sports Day.

Rounders

Introduce a new activity to the children which involves batting and fielding. Learn the basic rules and how to play the game by looking at bowling (underarm flat bowl) and fielding (overarm/underarm throw).

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Managing Change'

- Identify changes that we may experience in our lives.
- Name emotions that may be involved in loss and change situations, and have some strategies for coping with them
- Know what helps or hinders when we are experiencing difficult emotions
- Understand how someone who experiences bereavement might feel
- Know who we can talk to if we are experiencing difficult emotions, and how to ask for help
- Plan to make a chosen change happen

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths: Morning, afternoon, night, digital, analogue, clock, hour, hands, minute, seconds, quarter to, quarter past, half past, o' clock, years, fortnight, century, calendar, earliest, latest, shape, edges, faces, polygon, horizontal, diagonal, half turn, diagram, acute angle, obtuse angle, right angle, curved, diagram, sorting, pattern, vertical, symmetry, greater than, smaller than, quadrilateral, parallel, perpendicular, prism,

English: Action, verb, adverb, feeling, generalisers, adverbials, expanded noun phrase, paragraphs, creatures, hero, legend, myth, imitation, innovation, characters, settings, personification, metaphors, similes, dramatic speech, description, mythical, hybrid, mountain, fairy, ancestor.

Science: Light, shadow, block, solid, artificial, torch, candle, surface, dark, natural, bulb, source, opaque, transparent, translucent, reflect, mirror, travels, reflect, reflection, periscope

Geography: Weather, erosion, coastal, mountain, continent, country, world, plan, beach, bridge, environment, seasons, island, cliff, lake, soil, city, town, village, school, road, cave, mountain range, forest