

History - The children will learn who the ancient Maya people were and where and when they lived. They will use maps and atlases to locate Maya cities and identify countries in Mesoamerica. In addition to this, they will learn about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and find out more about some of the many gods they worshipped. The children will also learn about the Maya number system and have the opportunity to read and write Maya numbers and solve number problems. They will learn about the Maya writing system too and practise writing words using logograms and syllabograms in the hieroglyphic style of the ancient Maya people. The children will learn about the work of the explorers John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood and have the opportunity to analyse historical pictures of the cities they discovered. They will also learn about the types of food eaten by the ancient Maya people and they will find out about the significance of corn and chocolate, arguing which was most important, in a class

Geography - In this unit about the Americas, children will first find out about the continents of North and South America, and the countries that form them. They will then look in more detail at some of the contrasting areas of North America, finding out about the landscape, climate and locations in each area.

Music - In term 3, the children will be exploring music from 1920s animated films to present day movies. The children will learn techniques for creating soundtracks and film scores, and they will compose their own movie music. In term 4, the focus will be on celebration. They will learn how to put on a lively celebration performance.

D.T - We will be using the influences of South America to design and create a carnival mask.

French - we will be learning about a French town and the places we can visit in a town.

English - We will continue our focus on handwriting and spelling, with our weekly spelling tests, dictations and handwriting sessions. Reading will also be a focus this term and I encourage you to read with your child as often as possible. We will be using some of the new books purchased with the money raised at the Christmas fair, for our guided reading sessions, which will now happen twice a week. In our English lessons, we will look at the structure on monologues in our poetry sessions; we will also be learning to write persuasively as well as writing instructions. We will have a narrative workshop and will finish the term focusing on one book. As part of our lessons, we will be also be practicing choral speaking.

Computing - During the first half of the spring term, the children will continue to develop their skills in writing their own algorithms as well as editing and debugging existing codes. New skills will be introduced to structure code and animate characters and scenes, gradually building to create a short, animated story. In the second half of the spring term, children will be given an understanding of spreadsheets and how they can be used. They will learn skills in formatting and entering specific formulas and investigative skills in using the spreadsheet to solve specific problems.

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Art - we will continue with improving our drawing skills, focusing on perspective. We will also be using collage to create images.

R.E - In R.E this term, we will be learning how to pray, using the Lord's Prayer as our example; we will explore the Beatitudes, which are eight guidelines for living, as told by Jesus; we will learn what the Bible says about preparing for Heaven and, finally, looking at the life of Saul.

P.E - Our P.E lessons will continue to be on a Monday and a Thursday. Children will need their tracksuit for their outdoor PE lessons, which will usually be the Monday session but may need to be swapped if the weather is not suitable. During the spring term, we will be taking part in events for boccia, badminton and hockey. Our lessons will focus on badminton, hockey, gymnastics and dance.

Maths - This term, we will continue our weekly focus on times tables. We will also be covering place value, decimals, fractions, percentages, ratio, geometry, property of shapes, angles, parts of a circle, 4 operations, measures and problem solving.

Science - During term 3, our science topic will be 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. It will teach the children about the classification of living things, including micro-organisms. The children will build on their work in Year 4 by sorting animals into groups based on their similarities and differences. They will extend their learning to find out about the standard system of classification first developed by Carl Linnaeus, choosing an animal and researching its classification. The children will have the opportunity to design their own 'curious creature' and classify it based on its characteristics. They will learn about micro-organisms, and conduct an investigation into the growth of mould on bread. Furthermore, the children will use play dough to create a new single celled micro-organism and explain how it is classified and why. As part of this topic, the children will participate in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch. In term 4, our focus will be on sound. The children will learn about how vibrations cause sounds and how sounds travel, as well as how sounds can change pitch and loudness. The children will learn about how sounds are made, carrying out demonstrations of vibrations, and completing a sound survey of the school. They will work in groups to create a human model of the way particles pass sound vibrations on, and write and star in their own documentary explaining how sound travels. The children will work in a hands-on way to explore pitch, and will use their understanding of how high and low sounds are made to create their own set of panpipes. They will have the opportunity to make a string telephone, and will use this to investigate how sounds change over distance and through different materials.