



Curriculum Newsletter

Lower School - Autumn 2018

We have had a good start to the new academic year and the children have settled well into routines. The new year 3 children have been supported well by their year 4 buddies.

Each class has spent time learning about their class country and we are looking forward to developing this knowledge over the coming months. We would be keen to share any information your child finds out about their country.

We have lots of events already planned for the lower school such as school trips, class assemblies and 'stay and learn' sessions so please visit the newsletter for dates and more information.

English

We have started the year looking at the story 'On Sudden Hill' by Linda Sarah. We have explored the themes of friendship within the story by using drama and will write diary entries from the viewpoint of different characters. Next we will develop our skills in writing instructions using the text 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' followed by a narrative unit focussing on the story of Mary Anning.

In guided reading, we will look at a variety of text drivers including pictures, film and written text and learn how to answer a variety of question types.

PDL

Getting to know each other has been the initial focus for PDL learning this half term.

We will consider why each of us is special and learn how to talk about our emotions and how different feelings can affect our behaviour.

As part of our PDL learning and anti-bullying week, we will learn the difference between bullying and unkind behaviour and recognise how to solve friendship problems peacefully.

Maths

We are starting the year by looking at place value and using resources to make 2 and 3 digit numbers. We have been developing our use of mathematical language to solve problems and will be moving onto solving addition and subtraction calculations in a variety of ways. We will be working on developing fluency in number bonds and multiplication tables and would be grateful for any additional practice at home.

Knowledge & Understanding

In science we will first complete a unit of work on materials followed after half term by a unit on rocks and soils.

As part of our computing learning, we will extend our knowledge on how to stay safe online and complete units of learning on using word processing programs and coding. In RE, we have completed a unit on trees as symbols and have been exploring the trees in the school grounds and within the Christian faith. Each class has chosen a class tree to study throughout the year.

During the course of the term, we will study the Stone Age through to the Iron Age in history.



Iron Rocks!

Spanish

We will learn about the location of Spain in relation to the UK and our class countries in Europe. We will learn to talk about our feelings in Spanish and develop our counting skills.

Being Creative

The art this half term will link directly with our history topic and we will research and design cave paintings.

In DT, after half term, we will be designing and building shelters.

We will be using unconventional musical instruments to compose, rehearse and perform Stone Age music. There will be opportunities for the children to develop their ukulele playing during the course of the year.

Physical Education

Before half term, the children will develop a range of ball skills and athletic skills. After half term, PE will focus on gym and dance skills.

Home Learning

Children should be reading to an adult every day and this should be recorded in their reading record book. Spellings will be sent home on a Wednesday and will be tested the following week. We will send out topic home learning and times tables to practise shortly. There is a lower school home learning club which the children can choose to attend to complete their home learning, should they wish. There are lots of fantastic websites and local places to visit linked to our topic should you and your child wish to extend