

PE

We will be working on tennis and basketball, developing our hand-eye coordination. Playing tennis, we will be developing a range of forehand and backhand shots, while in basketball we will focus on dribbling and passing.

Computing

Building on what we've already learnt this year, we will continue to develop our programming skills, using the Scratch platform (and logical thinking). Using ready-made 'blocks' of code and if, or and forever loops we will create interactive quizzes.



This half-term, we'll be learning about...

Science

Our next science topic will see us focussing on healthy bodies, finding out what sort of foods our bodies need to stay healthy. We will be exploring the way that our muscles and skeletons work and comparing the diets of different animals. We will also be contrasting the bodies of animals with and without skeletons, investigating the way they move, eat and protect themselves.

AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

YEAR 3&4 - AUTUMN 2023

English

Last term we met lots of giants, fairies, ghosts and monsters in our meeting stories - and now we're going to trap them! We will be designing our own ingenious traps, and then writing instructions to tell the reader how to capture the creature. To help us to do this, we will be analysing the structure, layout and language features of instructional writing. This will include the use of causal conjunctions (such as because, as a result and so) to link and explain our ideas. We will also be developing our use of possessive apostrophes to show belonging.

In our reading lessons, meanwhile, we will be developing our prediction, summarising and inference skills through work on a variety of texts.

Humanities

Geography

We will be continuing our amazing road trip around the USA, making stops in cities such as New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles and Dallas. We will also be taking a look at the wider picture of America including its history, traditions, climate and people. Along the way, we will be practicing our map skills by locating states, cities and landmarks on a variety of maps, as well as enjoying a fantastic USA Day!

RE

We will be exploring the Christian story of Christmas, thinking about the different traditions and symbols associated with this time of year.

The Arts

We will be concentrating on DT this half-term, designing and building the monster traps that we will be writing about in our English lessons. In order to do this, we will need to build tough, solid structures, as well as levers, pulleys and other mechanisms, so we will be investigating and testing these features before constructing our final traps.

Maths

We will start the half-term by getting to grips with written (column) strategies for addition and subtraction, building up to being able to add or subtract any pair of 3-digit numbers. We will then use these to solve word problems.

After that, we'll be moving on to looking at graphs and tables, creating our own bar charts and using these to answer questions. Following that, we move onto lines, angles and shapes, identifying right angles and putting angles into size order. Finally we will learn to identify parallel, perpendicular, vertical and horizontal lines and search for these in the world around us.

PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- You can have a go at coding in Scratch by heading to scratch.mit.edu or downloading the Scratch app. There are loads and loads of tutorials, ideas and examples of other people's work available on the Scratch site.



Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Talk about the food you eat and the effect that it has on your bodies. Have a look at the nutritional information on the side of food packets and find foods that are high in fibre, protein or carbohydrates.
- Catch-up on Planet Earth III on the BBC iplayer, looking at the way different animals move and the range of plants and animals that they eat.

AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

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English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to listen to your child as often as possible.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- We're focussing on instructions, so keep a look out for any instructional texts you come across over the coming few weeks - recipes, DIY, Lego sets, craft projects etc. How are they organised? How are they written? What makes them 'good'?

The Arts

If you're feeling keen, you could have a go at building your own trap at home - it could be full of moving parts, brightly decorated, huge (for a giant), tiny (for a fairy), or whatever else you want it to be. Something to lure the monster in, a net, cage or trapdoor to catch it and some ropes, buttons or levers to set it in motion and it's bound to look impressive...

Maths

As always, tables facts will be really important to us this term, so it would be brilliant if you could work on learning these at home. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

Humanities

- In geography this term we are learning about the USA. There are loads of resources online to help you find out more about the climate, people, landmarks and landscapes found across this enormous country - a good place to start is the BBC Bitesize website, where there's a unit focussing on Florida at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3fyedm/articles/zrg3qp3
- In RE, we will be talking about different religions and their beliefs. At home, you could talk about different ways that family members or friends celebrate at different times of year - this might be due to religious differences, but it could also be that different families have different traditions.