

PE

We will be developing our basketball skills over the next few weeks, improving our dribbling, passing and shooting technique, as well as learning to mark an opponent. We will also have swimming lessons every Tuesday morning.

Computing

Knowing how to stay safe online is a really important life skill, so we will begin the year by developing our eSafety knowledge. We will agree basic rules for communicating online, and will ensure we all know how to report anything unpleasant that we find on the internet.

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

Science

Our first science topic of the year will focus on our circulatory system - our heart, our blood and the arteries and veins that keep our bodies supplied with oxygen. We will learn about the structure of the heart and the composition of blood, as well as carrying out experiments to find out how our pulse rate changes when we exercise. We will also learn more about staying healthy.

The Arts

In DT, we will be learning to construct protective shelters. We will investigate the Air Raid Shelters built during World War Two, and using this to help design and build our own shelters, capable of protecting us from the elements. We will also be learning about solid structures and different ways of cutting and joining materials.

Maths

All three maths groups will begin the year revising and developing our place value knowledge, using whole numbers up to ten million and decimals with up to three decimal places. We will partition, regroup, order and round these numbers, and then use these skills to solve problems. We will also develop our ability to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000, as well as exploring negative numbers. Once we have secured these skills, we will move on to core calculation skills - using formal written for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In particular, we will aim to secure our use of short multiplication and division and then extend on to 'long' strategies to solve more complex calculations.

Humanities

History

We will be investigating World War 2 and the Battle of Britain this term. After investigating which countries were involved on each side, we will be exploring how the War affected the lives of children and experiencing what life was like for evacuees. We will also be learning about the impact of the Battle of Britain, identifying the location of air bases, the tactics used and the reasons why the attack was ultimately unsuccessful.

RE

We will be learning about Sikhism and the principles and traditions that Sikhs follow. We will compare Sikhism with other religions, particularly Christianity, and think about the key values that lie behind major religions.

English

Our first topic of the year focusses on report writing. We will be exploring sections of *The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures* and identifying features that authors use to create engaging reports - including conjunctions, adverbials and detailed description. We will then be designing our own imaginary creatures and writing reports on them, which we will present using laptops to create our own class book.

After that, we will switch to fiction writing, using a gorgeous book called *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham as our core text. We will be investigating setting description and looking at the way authors combine dialogue and description in writing.

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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

- There's some great advice on talking to children about online safety on the NSPCC website at www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/
We also use lots of resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre: saferinternet.org.uk/

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- There are lots of resources to support our next topic available on the BBC Bitesize site at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7x78xs
- Investigate the effect that different types of exercise have on your bodies - when do you find yourself breathing more heavily, sweating more or feel your heart beating faster?

The Arts

Build things! Our work on shelters is all about creating strong structures, choosing the right materials and finding good (strong) ways to join things together - and you can do this at home with everything from miniature houses made from lolly sticks to table-top football stadiums made from cardboard to garden dens made from posts and old sheets!

Maths

A great deal of the maths we're doing this term is dependent on quick recall of tables facts, so it would be brilliant if you could work on this 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 in as many ways as possible.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

Humanities

- Our history topic might be within living memory of some of our family members - if so, it would be great to share their memories of life during WW2. Were any great-grandparents evacuees? What do you know about any family members who fought or worked during the War? There are loads of movies, video clips and archive materials available online to support learning about life during the War - the BBC Class Clips site is a great place to start: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-world-war-two/zjnyscw
- In RE, we will be talking about different religions and their beliefs, focussing in particular on Sikhism. The BBC Bitesize website has lots more great content here as well - to get started, head to www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsjpyrd

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
- There are loads of great children's books set during World War-2 that would be great to share - *Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian, *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll and *Arctic Star* by Tom Palmer are all excellent places to start.

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