

PE

We will be learning to play tag rugby over the next few weeks, developing our ball handling skills so that we can pass and catch consistently. We will also use our agility to (carefully) dodge and tag our opponents.

Computing

We will develop our understanding of eSafety. We will discuss the type of behaviour that is (and isn't) acceptable when we use the internet, and make sure we all realise that people online may not be who they seem.

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



English

We are basing our first English unit of the year around a fab graphic novel called *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. We will be exploring the layout features found in graphic novels, and the way that authors can tell complex stories through a combination of artwork and speech bubbles. We will then focus in on dialogue, converting speech bubbles into correctly punctuated speech. After that, we will develop our use of adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions to link ideas together. Finally, we will draw all of these skills together to create graphic novels of our own.

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

Science

We will be exploring the difference between solids, liquids and gasses. We will sort materials into these three groups and compare their properties. We will investigate ways in which we can change the state of a material (eg. heating things to melt them from solids to liquids) and identify the temperatures at which these changes take place in water. Finally, we will explore evaporation and condensation.

DISASTER!

VOLCANOES AND EARTHQUAKES

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Humanities

Geography

For our Natural Disasters topic, we will be investigating volcanoes and earthquakes and mapping the places where they are common. We will be looking at the impact that these disasters have had on people around the world, as well as investigating why they occur in the first place. We will then explore other types of natural events, such as hurricanes, flooding and tornadoes, and find out how people who live in areas where these are common protect themselves against these disasters.

RE

We will be exploring the way that different religions think about happiness and sadness, focussing in particular on Buddhism and the question, Is it possible for everyone to be happy?

The Arts

Our focus will be on the work of the abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky. We will look carefully at his work and consider the ways in which he used colour and shape to create paintings that were dramatic and fascinating without being traditional 'pictures'. We will focus in particular on his 'circle' pieces, and will work towards making our own versions.

Maths

All three maths group will be starting the year by focussing on place value, developing our understanding of whole numbers to 10,000. We will learn to partition these numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and ones, and regroup them in lots of different ways. We will practice comparing, ordering and rounding, as well as finding 1000 more or less than a given number. After that, we will move on to addition and subtraction. We will start with mental strategies, using our partitioning and regrouping skills to quickly find totals, before moving on to revise our understanding of written 'column' strategies. Throughout the term, we will also be practicing our recall of key times table facts.

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

Advice about staying safe online can be found at:

- saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers
- www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Is it a solid, liquid or gas? It's a simple question that you can ask often - especially when something is changing, like melting ice cream or a boiling kettle. Talk about what's making these changes happen, too.
- There are activities to support this topic on the BBC Bitesize site at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgwc96f

The Arts

There's lots of information on abstract painting and (better still) activities for making art in this style on the fantastic Tate Kids website at www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/paint-draw

Have a go at creating some Kandinsky-inspired art at home: artprojectsforkids.org/kandinsky-tree-collage/

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

- We're learning about volcanoes, earthquakes, floods and hurricanes, so if anyone in the family has first-hand experiences of these (that aren't too scary), they would be great to share. Otherwise, see what you can find out about one of these natural disasters - the BBC Bitesize site has some great videos and animations, or there's a whole set of teaching resources on the Oak Academy site: classroom.thenational.academy/units/mountains-volcanoes-and-earthquakes-e02a
- 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 during the year - this might be due to religious differences, but it could also be that different families have different traditions.

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 graphic novels, so this is a great opportunity to share and talk about your favourites. Anything from Iron Man to Asterix to Dog Man counts - and there's a great list of newer suggestions at childhood101.com/comic-books-graphic-novels/



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