

PE

Gymnastics

In our lessons with Mr Butler we will be developing our ability to balance and move with control. We will be learning to hold bridge positions, and will be working in pairs to create symmetric sequences.

Computing

Linked to our science topic, we will be using data loggers to collect information on sound levels around the school. We will set-up tests that collect readings over long periods of time, and then use IT to present our findings using charts and graphs.

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

Science

Sound

We will be exploring the way sounds are made and the way in which they travel. We will examine the vibrations created by a range of different instruments and think about the way that the pitch and volume can be changed on specific devices. We will carry out fair tests to check our predictions, and then investigate which materials to use to make ear defenders.

The Arts

Linking in with our history work, we will be making our own Canopic jars, using old jam jars and modelling clay, and painting our own hieroglyphics. We will also be carving our own scarab beetles (which will require some really careful observation and hand control) and making Egyptian jewellery from materials we can find in class.

Maths

We will start the term by exploring shapes, starting by developing our understanding of perimeter (the distance around the outside of a shape) and the way we can calculate it. After that, we will be revising the properties of 2d shapes and learning to identify different types of quadrilateral, including trapeziums, parallelograms and kites. Building on that, we will look at symmetry, identifying lines of symmetry in shapes and plotting symmetrical patterns. Later in the term, we will be returning to decimals, ordering, regrouping and rounding numbers with up to two decimal places. We will also investigate the link between decimals and fractions, writing and representing numbers in a range of ways.

Humanities

History: Ancient Egypt

We be exploring life in Ancient Egypt, looking in particular at the role of the Pharaoh in their society. We will learn about the lives of some of the most famous pharaohs, and compare them with modern day kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers. We will also be investigating the variety of gods that the Ancient Egyptians believed in and learning about some of the stories that were told about their adventures, which Egyptians used to explain the world around them. We will find out about their adventures, which was responsible for, and the way that the Egyptian people worshipped them. Finally, we will investigate what remains of their civilisation and think about the reasons why they are remembered today.

English

Our next topic is built around the classic story of *Alice in Wonderland*. We will be exploring the way speech is used and organised in the story, and then using this as a base for short sections of dialogue which we will write (making sure that it is punctuated correctly). We will identify the techniques which the author uses to describe fantastical characters and settings, helping us to develop our descriptive writing. Finally, we will examine the way that stories are split into paragraphs, and think about where it would be appropriate to start a new paragraph in our own work.

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



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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

- It's Safer Internet Day on February 11th, so this is a good opportunity for us all to talk about the way that we stay safe online. This year's focus is on avoiding online scams - you can find out more at saferinternet.org.uk/

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Explore sounds you can make around the house by tapping bottles, table tops or toys. What links are there between the material and the sound produced?
- Try making a cup and string telephone, and talk about how the sound is being transmitted - there are instructions: sciencekids.co.nz/projects/stringphone.html

The Arts

Ancient Egypt offers loads of opportunities for home art and DT projects - try some of these sites to get started:

www.activityvillage.co.uk/ancient-egypt-crafts

artscraftsymom.com/ancient-egypt-crafts/

www.artfactory.com/egyptian_art/egyptian_art_lessons.htm

Maths

So much of what we do in class depends on the recall of tables facts, so it would be brilliant if you could work on 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 history this term we are learning about the Ancient Egyptians, which provides lots of opportunities for learning beyond the classroom - try investigating the history, and making a picture or model of an Egyptian pyramid. There's lots of information, video and links to get you started available on the BBC Bitesize website at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb
- If you're looking for something to do one weekend, the British Museum is free to visit and has a large collection of Egyptian statues, mummies and jewellery - find out more at britishmuseum.org
- We'll be investigating the role of Egyptian gods, so see what you can find out about Ra, Osiris, Anubis, Isis and Horus (to start with - there are lots more!)

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'll be focussing on *Alice in Wonderland* over the next few weeks, so it would be great if you could share this story at home - as well as the original book by Lewis Carroll, there are some brilliant (and shorter) picture book versions and several films based (loosely) on the text.

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