

PE

We will be learning to play hockey this half-term, developing the way we control and pass the ball. We will think about the way we work as a team, and how we can adapt our positioning depending if we are attacking or defending.

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 topic will see us exploring the rocks and soils beneath our feet. We will begin by comparing and grouping different types of rock, carrying out simple tests and looking in particular at the difference between igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. We will then look at different types of soils, investigate how they are formed and design our own tests to find out how quickly they absorb water.

The Arts

We will be focussing on the work of the artist Picasso for the next few weeks. We will look at lots of examples of his work, explore the ways in which his style changed and discuss the way that we feel about his abstract pictures make us feel. We will then create our own Picasso-inspired pieces, using paint, collage and contrasting colours.

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

Across the USA

We will be taking a virtual 'road trip' across the USA this term. It's a huge, diverse country, so we will explore the different landscapes and habitats, from the Rocky mountains of the west to the deserts, plains and forests of middle America, to the bustling cities of the coasts. We will use photos, videos, maps and first-hand accounts to investigate weather, food, schools and homes, and begin to compare life in the UK with life in USA. We will then use all this information to make reasoned choices about where we would like to visit and where we would prefer to live. Throughout the topic we will also be developing our map skills, locating the USA (as well as the UK, the 7 continents and 5 oceans) on a variety of maps and globes.

English

We will start the term by completing our study of the stories *Starbird* by Sharon King-Chai and *Zeraffa Giraffa* by Dianne Hofmeyr. We will be investigating the way that settings and characters are described, and will contrast the endings of the two stories. We will finish this unit of work by writing alternative endings for *Zeraffa Giraffa*.

After that, we will shift to focus on newspaper reports. We will think about the way that they answer the 'Five Ws' (who, what, when, where, why) and use direct speech to give information and show how people who witnessed the events felt. We will then write our own newspaper reports based on a mystery that we have read about or experienced ourselves.

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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 10th, 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 learning to use AI safely - you can find out more at saferinternet.org.uk/

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Go on a rock hunt in the garden or around town. What different types can you find? Can you spot any of the rocks we've met in class (like chalk, slate, granite and marble)? Can you tell if they are igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic?
- There are videos and ideas to support our topic available at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zsgkdmn

The Arts

We're exploring the work of the artist Picasso this term, so if you're in London at some point, you can see examples of his work (for free) at the National Gallery and Tate Modern.

You can learn more about Picasso - and have a go at making art in his style - on the fab Tate Kids website at www.tate.org.uk/kids/

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 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/z3fydc/m/articles/zrg3qp3
- Track down any family members who have visited the USA, and encourage them to talk about what they can remember about the places they visited - and if you've got photos or postcards, we'd love to share them in class. It's a huge country, so try to identify about which states and cities you're talking about, and then find them together on a map.

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
- Later in the term we will be exploring newspaper reports, so reading and sharing examples at home would be really helpful. Does the report tell you who, what, when and where and why? Why do you think the editor chose to run this story first? What differences can you spot between newspapers?

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