

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.

Science

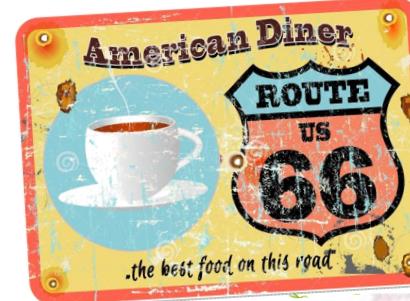
Our next topic will see us exploring the rocks and soils beneath our feet. We will begin by comparing and grouping different types of rock, carrying out simple tests and looking in particular at the difference between igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. We will then look at different types of 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.

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.



Maths

We will start the half-term by exploring the properties of shapes, revising shape names, learning about the difference between regular and irregular shapes and constructing shapes with given properties. After this, we will move on to focus on multiplication and division. We will revise our 2, 5 and 10x tables and then build on these to find (and start to learn) our 3, 4, 6 and 8x table facts. We will use arrays and regrouping to solve multiplication problems, and develop our understanding of the link between multiplication and division to help us find unknown facts. Across all of these topics, we will be doing lots of problem solving to help us apply our knowledge to a wide range of situations.

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.

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.

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

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

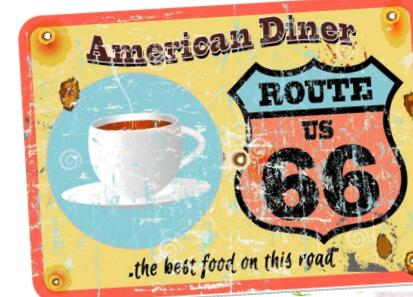
The Arts

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/

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:



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.

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 Carrol, there are some brilliant (and shorter) picture book versions and several films based (loosely) on the text.

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/z3fycdm/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.