

PE

We will be focussing on hockey and tennis this half-term. In hockey, we will be developing our ability to pass, shoot and defend as a group. In tennis, our focus will be on combining a range of shots to begin to play short rallies.

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

Plants

We will be investigating the way that plants grow over the next few weeks. We will begin by identifying and describing the function of different parts of flowering plants (including roots, leaves and flowers), and will then explore the different things that plants need in order to grow well. Finally, we will learn about the life cycle of plants, discovering how they make and disperse seeds.

AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

RABBITS - SPRING 2026

English

Our next unit is based around the brilliant story *Jabari Jumps*, by Gaia Cornwall. Jabari has just passed his swimming test and is keen to jump off the highest diving board, until the doubts start creeping in... We will use the story to explore the use of speech, learning to punctuate dialogue correctly in our own work, and will also investigate the use of similes to build description. We will then use all of these skills to write recounts of significant moments from our own lives.

After that, we will move on to focus on poetry. Our core text will be *Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech, and we will be using it to explore *calligrams* (poems where the words are arranged in a shape linked to the subject) and *free verse* (poems with no set rules),

The Arts

Linked to our topic, we will be making sculptures of American landmarks from clay. Through lots of careful looking and sketching we will identify the key features of these places, and we will then carefully recreate them. We will also be using our USA theme to inspire our cooking, learning to make pastry so that we can bake our own apple pies!

Maths

Our big focus for the next few weeks will be on developing our understanding of fractions. We will draw, cut and divide up shapes to secure our understanding of what common fractions 'look' like. We will then use fraction walls and simple calculations to find equivalent fractions ($\frac{2}{5} = \frac{4}{10}$ etc.) and to calculate fractions of quantities. Finally, we will develop our ability to add and subtract fractions, first with the same denominator ($\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$) and then with different denominators. Throughout the term, we will also continue to practice and learn our tables facts, which are fundamental to all the calculations in this topic. Year 4 will also be preparing for their Tables Check in June.

Humanities

Geography

We will be continuing our amazing road trip around the USA, making stops in cities such as New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles and Dallas. We will also be taking a look at the wider picture of America including its history, traditions, climate and people. Along the way, we will be practicing our map skills by locating states, cities and landmarks on a variety of maps, as well as enjoying a fantastic USA Day!

RE

We will be exploring the question, 'What happens if we do wrong?' We will think about the idea of justice and forgiveness, and investigating the ways in which different religions view these ideas.



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

- You can have a go at coding in Scratch by heading to scratch.mit.edu or downloading the Scratch app. There are loads and loads of tutorials, ideas and examples of other people's work available on the Scratch site.



Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- We're learning about plants this half-term, so see how many different types of plant you can spot while you're out and about. What's the same (and what's different) about the flowers, trees, crops and grasses you can see?
- Plant some seeds or bulbs in pots and watch how they grow. What do we need to do to make sure that they grow well?

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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
- It's World Book Day on 5th March, so keep an eye out for the tokens that will be coming home soon, which you can exchange for a free £1 book at most supermarkets and bookshops. You can find out more about this year's line-up of books at www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/

The Arts

In class, we're using our US road trip topic to inspire our art lessons, so why not try the same thing at home? There are loads of ideas to get you started at the sites below:

- artprojectsforkids.org/category/view-by-theme/u-s-history-and-symbols/
- www.activityvillage.co.uk/usa
- www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/category/teachers/cultures/usa-cultures/



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/z3fyedm/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.