

Curriculum Newsletter

Chestnut Class

Autumn Term 2023



As artists, the children will experiment with & combine materials & processes. This will be to design a pillow case depicting their representation of Dartmoor (linked to our Geography work). They will use textile & sewing skills as part of this project using different stitches like running stitch, cross stitch, backstitch, applique & embroidery. The focus will be to include both visual & tactile elements in their work.

As mathematicians we will use White Rose resources to support our learning. Year 5 will be learning about place value with numbers up to 1 million, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and fractions.

Year 6 will also be covering the same aspects as year 5 but with numbers to up to and including 10 million and building on the prior year 5 learning on these concepts to involve more complex reasoning.

The children will continue to consolidate their times tables weekly using Times Tables Rock stars and quizzes.



As engineers, the children will be investigating a variety of electrical systems. They will look at more complex switches and circuits and begin to understand how to use electrical systems in products. The children will try to select and accurately assemble materials, and securely connect electrical components to produce a reliable, functional product that they have designed.



As geographers, the children will be learning about the importance of National Parks in the UK, where they are located, their similarities and differences as well comparing and contrasting to National Parks in the USA. They will consider the concept of 'breathing spaces' and what this implies considering the location of the parks. For those children whom were in Chestnut last year and have carried out some work on the National Parks, a deeper and broader understanding of the reason why we have National Parks will be a focus for their learning and the application of previous learned comparing and contrasting skills.



As authors, the children will be studying the text 'Tom's Midnight Garden' a graphic adaptation of the Philippa Pearce classic. This text tells the traditional story in a modern way. The children will be writing letters, poetry, dairy entries, descriptive writing and persuasive writing. The children will use their inference skills to 'read' the books using their knowledge of emotions and expressions when no words are included in the panels. We will continue to use letter join to support with cursive handwriting and spelling shed for the learning of rules and statutory spelling words.



As musicians, the children will learn about composition notation based on the theme of Ancient Egypt. They will identify the pitch and rhythm of written notes and experiment with notating their compositions. They will learn the 'Shoshloza' a traditional South African song and play the accompanying chords using tuned percussion and play the djembe. They will add dance moves to the song for performance.

As athletes, the children will be practising their skills using Real PE. This will include looking at different types of physical activities to keep our bodies fit and healthy. We will also continue to consolidate the skills required for invasion games and gymnastic performance. The children will be partaking in the Dance Showdown at the Exeter Corn Exchange. After last year's success, the children are really excited about the opportunity and have begun to come up with some fantastic ideas for the choreography. Watch this space...!



As readers, the children will be engaging with high quality texts from Complete Comprehension and considering why authors use certain vocabulary to engage the reader. The children will be practicing answering different types of questions about the text. Children will refine their dictionary and thesaurus skills in order to understand vocabulary within the text as well as complete written comprehension tasks based around the text.

The class reader for this term will be 'Murder most unladylike' by Robin Stevens.

As historians, our enquiry will be investigating the question 'Why was winning the Battle of Britain so important?' The children will be evaluating primary and secondary sources to explain why Britain faced the risk of an invasion in June 1940, interpreting evidence on why Hitler needed to defeat the Royal Air Force prior to invasion and investigate another major turning point in British History, the signing of the Magna Carta, and how this relates to the turning point of WW2, the Battle of Britain.



As scientists, the children will be learning about Animals including humans. The children will be investigating the human life cycle, heart and circulatory system, diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle and well as how humans transport water and nutrients. For the second half of the term we will be investigating forces including gravity, friction, air resistance, water and how forces are implicated in levers, pulleys and gears.

As philosophers (PHSE) we will be continuing to use the SCARF resources and this term the children will learn about 'Me and my relationships' considering team work, solving friendship issues and appropriate assertiveness, followed by 'Valuing difference' including what we all have in common but respecting differences and discussing tolerance and respect. In religious education the children will be learning about creation stories from different religions around the world and the Christmas story, including comparing versions and interpretation.



As computer engineers, the children will be learning about the importance of staying safe on line and how to achieve this. The children will also be learning to use code which is in so many of the programs that we use today. They will also be taught how to use a spreadsheet and what they can be used for.

As linguists, year 5 will be working on chapters 8, 9 & 10 of 'Minimus Starting out in Latin' working on translation, grammatical structure, oral and written language. Year 6 will be working from Chapter 5 of 'Secundus Moving on in Latin' and will complete the next 3 chapters translating both orally and written and completing grammar related tasks.

