

Curriculum Newsletter

Elm Class

Summer Term



As artists, we will be drawing with pastels, looking specifically at the space artwork of Peter Thorpe. Thorpe's rocket paintings are abstract, and the children will be learning how to replicate his artistic style and successfully use shading to create a range of moods and feelings.

As authors, the children are producing an illustrated sequel to last term's 'Gorilla' text. They will be drafting, editing and writing a story, suitable for primary aged children and plan to read their books to the children in Maple and Oak Class! The children have been thinking carefully about the rules of accurate writing, considering their purpose and audience, as well as applying their punctuation and grammar knowledge. In the second half of the term, we plan to cover poetry, report writing and persuasive writing in more detail.

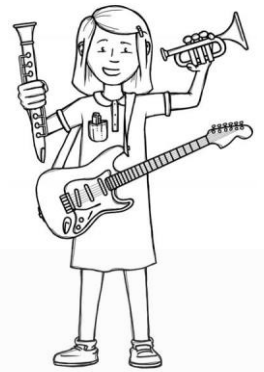


As mathematicians, we will be looking at topics including decimals, money, time, shape, statistics, position and direction, negative numbers, converting units, measurement and volume. In June, the Year 4 students will take the National Multiplication Check.



This term, we will be finishing reading our final weekly Complete Comprehension texts focusing on developing the pupils' skills in prediction, inference, retrieval and summarising. As a whole class we are enjoying reading *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold and *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q Rauf. All the children will continue to enjoy the opportunity to read to an adult independently at least once a week.

In our musician lessons this term, the children will be learning to play the recorder as part of a whole class ensemble. Children will learn to read rhythm and pitch on a musical stave and perform as a unit, working towards an end of term performance.



As geographers, we will be asking; 'Beyond the Magic Kingdom: what is the sunshine state really like?' The children will learn about the key physical and human features of North America, looking specifically at the Peninsula of Florida. They will discuss the Everglades, Kennedy Space Centre, turtle conservation, the Magic Kingdom theme park and the Mayan civilization. They will compare and contrast the climate of the United Kingdom and Florida and identify and explain the main differences particularly in relation to temperature and sunshine hours. They will explain how hurricanes form and why they present such a threat to the people of Florida.



As historians, we will be asking what the Vikings really wanted and how King Alfred the Great prevented them from getting it. We will look at the attack on Lindisfarne, the design features of a longship, contrast the homes of Viking Norsemen to those of Anglo Saxons and evaluate the achievements of King Alfred. We will also learn why William, Duke of Normandy fought the Anglo Saxon King Harold for the English crown at Hastings in 1066.



As philosophers, we will be considering how we value difference and how we can be our best. We will look at qualities of friendship, kind conversations, challenging stereotypes and developing independence and responsibility. In RE, we will first be learning about pilgrimages in different religions. This will include pilgrimages from the Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Jewish religions. After half term, we will be looking at The Bible. In particular, we will look at who wrote it, how it is used by Christians and some of the Bible stories. We will then move on to Humanism which will include; Humanists through history and the main beliefs.



As athletes, we will be working on our physical cog in Real PE. We will also be working with Premier Sport to create a performance for their summer showdown at Exeter's Barnfield Theatre. The theme for this performance will be 'Fire' and we will be dancing to a song by the artist Pink. After half-term, the Year 4's will undertake swimming lessons, and all the children will then prepare for sports day with athletics.

As linguists, the Year 4's will continue to study the Minimus text looking at the lives of a real family at the Roman fort of Vindolanda. The Year 5's have moved on to read Minimus Secundus (the sequel to Minimus,) and are now learning more complex Latin grammar including the use of masculine/feminine/neuter noun and adjective endings,



In computing, we will continue to learn about how to produce writing for different audiences, create logos and produce short pieces of animation. In the second half of the term, we will consider how computers are used for effective searching, hardware investigations and making music.

As engineers, we will be working on shell structures using computer aided design. We will develop and use knowledge of nets, cubes, cuboids and other 3D shapes to construct strong structures. We will be using computer-aided design to model and communicate our ideas.



As scientists, we will be looking at states of matter, considering the properties of solids, liquids and gases, plus the water cycle and burning. After half term, we will learn about the human digestive system, teeth, food chains, the human life cycle and animals. We will carry out exciting practical experiments and investigations.