

Curriculum Newsletter

Elm Class



Autumn Term



As artists, the children will be developing their skills in information technology, using computers to create project-based artwork linked with our history topic, considering how the arrival of the Romans changed Britain.

As authors, the children will be studying David Roberts' text 'Suffragettes: A Battle for Equality'. Through illustrations and writing, the children will explore the suffrage movement, with recounts of women around the world who fought for the vote. The teaching sequence is an opportunity to immerse children in an historical enquiry through which sophisticated literacy skills will be developed. It culminates in an extended piece in which the children can write and illustrate for a cause of their choice, drawing on the skills they have learned, to engage them in an appropriate form of activism.



As mathematicians, we will start the year by covering place value. Both year groups will then move on to practice skills in the four key methods of operation: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Year 4 will finish the term by studying measurement and area, and Year 5 will revisit fractions.



As readers this term, we will be reading our weekly Complete Comprehension texts focusing on developing the pupils' skills in prediction, inference, retrieval and summarising. The texts are varied in style to ensure the children experience a breadth of genre, ranging from diary entries to poetry, novel excerpts, fact and fiction. As a whole class we are also enjoying reading 'The Life of Riley - Beginners Luck' by Simon James Green. 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 sing, play, improvise and compose with the well-known song, Mamma Mia. Children will also listen to and appraise other ABBA songs. The term will end with preparations for the annual Christmas Church Performance



As geographers, we will be looking at the topic of volcanoes and earthquakes. The children will discuss and investigate the layers of the earth, the root causes of volcanoes and earthquakes, know where in the world they occur, research some of the things that affect the damage that earthquakes cause and know specifically why Iceland has so many volcanoes. The topic will finish by evaluating some of the benefits and disadvantages of living close to volcanoes in Iceland.



As historians, we will be asking how the arrival of the Romans changed Britain, and who were the Anglo-Saxons and how do we know what was important to them? The children will learn why the Romans invaded Britain in AD43 and discover why Boudica was a threat to the Romans. They will also learn why so much evidence of Roman occupation remains in Britain today, learn why most Romans left Britain and discover some of the ways in which the Anglo Saxons lived that was different to Romans.



In RE, the children will focus on aspects of worship across different faiths. They will explore what worship is and how people worship differently using music, art and objects. They will finish the unit by discussing the freedom to worship around the world. In the second half of the term, the children will explore the true meaning of Christmas for Christians.

As philosophers, we will be considering how we connect and communicate with others, looking at the 'me and my relationships' unit. We will also be discussing growing and changing, preparing for puberty.

As athletes, we will be working on our personal cog in Real PE, developing skills in balance and coordination. The children will also be learning about invasion games, and will be taught skills including dribbling, passing, attacking, tackling and defending, helping to prepare them for games of football, basketball and hockey.



As linguists, the Year 4's will be introduced to the Minimus text looking at the lives of a real historical family living at the Roman fort of Vindolanda. The Year 5's will continue to study this text, developing their grasp of the key Latin vocabulary and will start to be introduced to more grammatical concepts within the language.



In computing, we will start the term looking at online safety, teaching the children the key skills to remain safe when using IT. We will then move on to learn about computer coding, and finish by introducing the children to spreadsheets, using both the Excel and Purple Mash programmes.

As engineers, we will be cooking this term. To tie in with our geography work, looking at Iceland, we plan to research some traditional Icelandic recipes. Our first project will be to make Skyr, a thick & creamy Icelandic yogurt that's been a provision of Icelanders for nearly 1,000 years. Skyr is akin to yogurt but has a different texture thanks to the heirloom Icelandic cultures used to make it.



As scientists, we will start the term by looking at the topic of sound, carrying out many practical investigations and experiments covering pitch, distance and volume. We will then move on to cover the popular topic of space, the Earth, moon and the solar system - always a favourite learning subject for the children in Elm Class!