

Curriculum Newsletter

Elm Class

Spring Term



As artists, we will be drawing with pastels, looking specifically at the mountain and river artwork of Rachel Pohl and Katsushika Hokusai. The children will be learning how to replicate both artistic styles and successfully use shading to create a range of moods and feelings.

As authors, the children have recently been introduced to a new author scheme; Literacy Counts. We are enjoying studying *The Whale* by Ethan and Vita Murrow and have been practicing numerous writing techniques. These include using fronted adverbials, similes, personification, expanded noun phrases and inverted commas. The children are moving through a process of 'immerse, analyse, plan and write' with an overall objective of narrating a setting. We are looking forward to reading their final outcomes.



As mathematicians, we will be looking at topics including multiplication and division, fractions, length and perimeter, decimals, percentages, statistics and area. We will continue to follow the White Rose Maths curriculum, using NFER papers for assessment. Year 4 children continue to work on their 2-12 times tables in preparation for the National Multiplication Check.





This term, we will continue reading our 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 Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S.Lewis. 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 about pitch, tempo and dynamics, and linking to their geography learning, representing the stages of a river through vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance. In the second half of the term, they will be studying samba and carnival sounds, focussing on the theme of South America.



As geographers, we will be asking; Why are mountains and rivers so important? The children will learn about the main mountain ranges in the world, understand some of the ways in which people benefit from living on mountains and discuss the main human and physical features of the Cambrian Mountains. They will then go on to look specifically at rivers understanding their physical features from source to mouth and will be able to identify the main features of an estuary.



As historians, we will be asking what happened to the boy in the golden mask, in our study of the Ancient Egyptians. We will learn about the artefacts from Tutankhamun's tomb, discussing what they may tell us about the life of Pharaohs. We will consider why entering the afterlife was so important for ordinary people, and discuss the possible causes of death for Tutankhamun. Additionally, we will be looking at some local history and investigating the Ide School logbook and grave of Jack Bate Jewell.



As philosophers, we are continuing to discuss growing and changing, looking specifically at the changes faced during puberty. We will then consider how we can value difference and look at different ways to remain safe. In RE, the children will compare each religion's view of peace and then explore the role forgiveness plays in the religion of Judaism and Buddhism.

As athletes, we will be continuing to work on our skills as gymnasts. The children are making excellent development in their understanding and demonstration of balance, strength, coordination and flexibility. In addition to this, the children are preparing for an Exeter Learning Academy Trust dance performance, receiving weekly tuition from Katie Whenman of Step Up & Dance. The dance will focus on the topic of friendship. In the second half of the term, the children will be developing their skills in hockey.



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 be looking at the process of storing and recording key information on databases. The children will then have the opportunity to design and create an exciting game and will then finish the term by learning skills in 3D modelling.

In DT, we will be developing our knowledge and skills as engineers, planning, designing and constructing 3D structures. These structures will be linked to our Egyptian history learning, as we plan to create the ancient Egyptian pyramids!



As scientists, we will start the term by looking at electrical circuits, conductors, insulators and safety reminders when using electricity. The children will learn how to connect the key electrical components to make a successful circuit. The second half of the term will cover the topic of animals and humans. The children will enjoy learning about the digestive system, teeth, food chains and the human life cycle.

