



Literacy

This term we will begin by learning the story of *Three By The Sea* - a picture book by Mini Grey. The story is about a dog, a cat and a mouse who live happily (or so it seems) in their beach hut by the sea until one night a stranger blows into their little world and turns it upside down.

The story type is that of *Overcoming The Monster* and we will look at boxing up the structure of this story type in order to begin to innovate/invent creating our own stories.

We will focus particularly on the role of the character of the gatekeeper in the story, focussing on this character's effect on others.

We will also look closely at the skills type of creating powerful settings in which the reader can imagine the setting as it has been made to sound read and atmospheric.

Following the narrative unit we will then move on to the non-fiction text type of *Persuasion*. Successful persuasion requires the writer to appeal to the emotions of the reader. Ordering persuasive text is based on the logic of persuasion, with a series of points building to one viewpoint. Paragraphs are ordered and linked to maximise their impact on the reader: emotive signposts draw the reader into the logic of the persuader. The style tends to be very personal with exaggerated or deceptive language aimed at attracting the reader's interest. To write an effective piece of persuasion, the author needs to have a very good eye for the audience being appealed to and to craft the text accordingly. In this piece of work we will be writing letters of persuasion.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

The majority of the teaching of grammar and punctuation arises through the Talk for Writing process and by the analysis of model texts and the creation of jointly written texts. We will be working with Martin Young on 15 January in order

to create images to support the understanding of grammatical terms and their use.

The children will continue to use their personal dictionaries and should be encouraged to revisit the national curriculum words regularly at home to ensure spelling meets requirements.

Reading

This term we will continue to read our class novel: 'The Outlaws of Varjak Paw' by SF Said. There will be dedicated class time in which we will read as a whole class and discuss extracts of the novel in great detail, analysing the features of the author's writing and the impact it has on the reader. We will also spend time listening to children's reviews on books they have read recently over the Christmas period.

Over the next term, we will continue to work on our comprehension skills during our reading sessions; working in small groups as well as engaging in whole class discussions about particular texts. We will still focus on inference-based questions, really working on what 'evidence' is and how the children can use it to support their answers. As well as this, we will further develop our vocabulary and dictionary skills to find the meanings of words and concentrate on working in dedicated time frames so that children are aware of the pace they need to work at for their upcoming reading assessments.

Maths

This term we will spend the first few days finishing our shape story involving Sir Cumference and Lady Di of Ameter. We will continue investigating area, perimeter, angles and the properties of circles.

Following this we will undertake two units: the first being *Number Sense*. During this work the children will make appropriate decisions about when to use their understanding of counting (including counting below zero), place value and rounding problems including adding and subtracting. The children should continue to improve their times tables response times and for those who are able to recall effectively, the inverse, ie: division facts, should be practised.

The second unit is that of *Additive Reasoning*. During this, the children will solve addition and subtraction problems in different contexts, appropriately choosing and using number facts, understanding of place value and mental and written methods. During all of this work we will be employing the strategy of bar modelling and your attendance at the bar modelling parents' information meeting on Friday 12 January at 9.00am would be of great benefit.

At the end of the term we will be carrying out further assessments which will inform planning and next steps. You will be informed of your child's latest responses at the February parents' evening.

In the meantime please engage with your child's weekly maths homework challenge, keep practising tables (use Times Tables RockStars) and deepen understanding by using IXL regularly.

Science

Our topic this term is entitled *Out of This World* and during it we will be learning about space. We will start with the solar system, move next to look at how ideas about space have changed over time before finally exploring what causes us to experience night and day on earth.

By the end of the topic the children will have explored the Solar System and will be challenged to explain what it is. They will be able to name the eight planets in the Solar System in order of their distance away from the Sun and will have been involved in making a model of our Solar System. We will explore how our understanding has changed over time and will use secondary sources to research scientific ideas. We will find out about the geocentric and heliocentric models of the Solar System and will end by exploring the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky and how time passes in terms of a lunar month and the seasons.

Computing

Our previous topic 'We are Architects' took slightly longer to finish than anticipated and now that the Christmas festivities are complete, Class 3 will focus on our 'We Are Bloggers' topic where the children will create a media-rich blog, comment on other blogs and respond to comments using the appropriate software.



This term, our online safety focus is on responsible internet use and understanding advertising and endorsements online (when a person publicly says they like or use a product). Children will look closely at bloggers and vloggers – a person who publishes an online diary (vloggers use video clips). They will learn about the importance of using good judgement when deciding if the claims made about products in blogs and vlogs are true

- Targets:
- Become familiar with blogs as a genre of writing
 - Create a sequence of blogs on a theme
 - Incorporate additional media and comment on the posts of others
 - Understand that some people get paid to endorse products online
 - Appreciate the value of trusted adults in helping them reach an informed conclusion.

History

This term we will begin our History topic: the Mayan Civilisation. The Mayan Civilisation existed from around 2000 BC in Mexico and Central America but the Classic Period from around 200AD onwards was when their cities became large and powerful. Throughout the term, we will look in detail at where they lived, when they were around, what they ate, their writing, number system and calendars as well as their gods. Hopefully over the Christmas period, the children have spent a bit of time researching some basic facts to help them with this topic so that we can further develop their understanding. They may also have some topic-related questions which we can look in to as the topic progresses.

Art/DT

Our Art and DT will be combined in to an Art Day after the February half term. It will be linked to our history topic: Mayan Civilisation. The children, together with the wonderful help of our Art/DT specialist Mrs Elliott, will research and explore different Mayan Art, patterns and buildings and then create their own 3D structure.

RE

This term we will be looking at a topic entitled *Values: What matters most to Christians?* The unit enables pupils to identify values in human life and to think about their own values. The focus is on the ways in which stories communicate values and the ways in which values make a difference to our lives. The children will be enabled to think for themselves about questions to do with what matters in life. The unit works towards an understanding of the values that people share and the fact that not all values are shared.

Spanish

Feliz Año Nuevo (Happy New Year) to you all.

For the next few weeks children in Y5 and Y6 will be learning vocabulary for school subjects in Spanish. They will learn how to give their opinion about school subjects. They will learn/review to tell the time in Spanish.

Music

This half term we will be focusing on reggae, in particular the songs of Bob Marley. We will learn several songs, play accompaniments and learn some offbeat bass line riffs. The children will focus on the style indicators of the music and develop their listening skills. We will continue with rhythm games and exercises to help develop co-ordination, improvisation and rhythmic skills.

PE

Our PE sessions will be swimming on a Monday afternoon and PE with the coach on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their complete PE kit in school including outdoor footwear (separate from their normal school shoes). PE is an essential, not optional, part of the school curriculum and as such we will always take every step possible to ensure your child can take part. Please note it is also not acceptable for children to wear items of their school uniform such as polo shirt/shoes as their PE kit.

The Focus for our unit of work this half term is **Social Skills**, with a physical focus on *Dynamic Balance* and *Counter Balance* in pairs. The learning goals for this unit are:

- I can involve others and motivate those around me to perform better
- I can give and receive sensitive feedback to improve myself and others
- I can negotiate and collaborate appropriately
- I cooperate well with others and give helpful feedback. I help organise roles and responsibilities and I can guide a small group through a task

PSHE

This term we will return to our focus of building growth mindsets in all of the children. We will look together at ways in which we can get out of a black hole for learning, before creating WANTED posters for positive learning and finally creating visual effort meters which will be displayed around the school.

