

Literacy

This term we will focus our work on the wonderful traditional tale entitled *The Princess and the Pea*.

We will use the beautiful picture book by Lauren Child – a very well written version of events.

The story will be considered as a Rags to Riches tale and we will spend time boxing-up the structure of such a story to enable us to innovate in the first instance, leading to using the structure in order to invent entirely new stories in the genre.

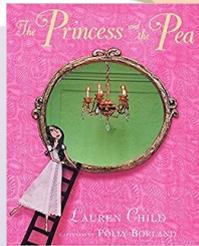
We will focus our narrative skills on characterisation – the aim being to create characters that sound real and that the reader can imagine.

Finally, the character study will be that of the trickster in stories. In Lauren Child's version the evidence could point towards the 'Princess' not being entirely truthful and manipulating the other characters to her own end.

Martin Young will, as usual, visit on the morning of Monday 26 February, in order to create with the children new images which can be used as a focus for the characterisation unit.

Following the three week narrative unit, we will move on to the non-fiction text type of *Discussion*. Discussion is extremely important because it helps us to reflect and think.

In education, discussion writing is highly prized because it involves considering all sides of the argument, weighing up evidence or ideas and trying to come to some kind of reasoned conclusion. Discussion lays the foundation for balanced discursive writing that will be used later in many subject areas, eg: history. In some ways, discussion is a close relative of persuasive writing – the important difference being that the



author provides both sides of the argument and weighs up the evidence in a reasoned manner, drawing a conclusion. There will be much discussion with regards to the characters in the story before balanced arguments are weighed up in reference to their actions.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Grammar

We will continue to use our icons/actions to support grammatical understanding. Much of the grammar work will be incorporated into the Talk for Writing process with varied sentence starters and the use of a wide range of clause structures of particular focus. We will also look at using the entire range of punctuation to improve writing.

Spelling

The children will continue to focus on the Y3, 4, 5 & 6 National Curriculum Spelling Words. Please continue to focus on these as they are required to be spelt correctly when the children are writing independently by the end of Year 6.

Reading

Reading has been a real focus for Class 3 over the last term with the introduction of our 'page turner' books. We have been so impressed by the children's enthusiasm to read these books and we hope this will continue throughout the course of the year. We have heavily linked reading to our computing unit where the children have focussed on writing effective book reviews and then using our class blogging website to publish them, and constructively comment on others. We will continue to do this over this next term, allowing the children to share their completed book reviews once they have finished reading their 'page turner' and then publishing their review which will (hopefully) be able to be accessed on the school website.

During our reading sessions, comprehension skills – particularly inference-based questions – will continue to be our focus. The children are gaining a better understanding on how to use direct quotes as evidence from the text to help answer the question but we need to take this forward another step and understand how to explain what this evidence means to further support their answer. We will continue to develop our vocabulary and dictionary skills to find the meanings of words and also encourage the children to read aloud, and in guided groups, to help with the pace of reading and also listening to others when they are reading.

Last term, we managed to finish reading our class novel: *The Outlaws of Varjak Paw* by SF Said and we have now moved on to reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar which came about from some of the children (and Mrs James) reading one of our 'page turner' books *There is a boy in the girl's bathroom*, also by Louis Sachar. We will continue to dedicate class time to read our class novel and Mrs Wake will also be giving the children independent reading time on a Thursday afternoon to read their 'page turner' books – please can you ensure that the children are bringing their books in every day to school. We are happy for children to read during lunchtime if they so wish to.

Maths

This term we will begin by focussing on *Number Sense*. We will return to looking at the fact that percentages, decimals and fractions are different ways of expressing proportions.

The children will focus on equivalent fractions, improper and mixed fractions. They will learn to say, read and write decimal fractions and related tenths, hundredths and thousandths accurately and will work on checking the reasonableness of answers to problems.

We will explore converting a simple fraction to a decimal fraction and will learn to round to two or three decimal places. The children will order fractions and place them on a number line; calculating how far each fraction is from

one. We will then move on to multiplicative reasoning. By the end of our unit of work the children will be able to explain and show the properties of prime, composite, square and cube numbers and explain factor pairs related to these number.

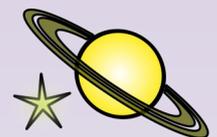
We will also focus on their understanding of the relationship between multiplication, division, fractions and percentages. They will use this understanding to derive facts and solve problems.

We will also focus on the relationship between multiplication, division, ratio and proportion.

Having undertaken assessments in the last week of last term we will also focus on particular questions which require further input.

During all of our work, we will continue to focus on the language of maths in order to deepen understanding. We will also continue to develop toolkits and bar modelling, which help to visualise the steps which require to be taken and will continue to aid access to word problems.

Please encourage your child to continue to use IXL at home to support mathematical understanding.



Science

This term we will continue with our topic on *Earth and Space*. We have already learnt a great deal about our solar system and will continue to focus on the planets which orbit our sun. We will research the importance of our moon and further explore gravitational pull.

We will learn about daylight hours and why some places on earth experience almost total darkness/light. We will look at time zones before attempting to make a model of our solar system. We will then focus on our sun.

The topic will be supported by our visit to the Space Centre in Leicester on 1 March.

Computing

This term, we will continue our *We Are Bloggers* topic which will encourage the children to publish blogs using Wordpress on different aspects of school life, particularly reading/book reviews. We will focus on adding different types of media in to our blogs, with the possibility of creating vlogs – using videos rather than text.

Our online safety focus this term is *Understanding and Applying Copyright Laws*. The children will be learning about copyright and fair use laws and how they can ensure that they are not breaking these rules. We will look at how copyrighted content can be used within school and think of possible ways to avoid copyright laws being broken. It might be useful to look for examples of copyrighted materials at home which may be books, magazines or CDs.

- Targets:
- Build on a sequence of blogs on a theme
 - Incorporate additional media and comment on the posts of others
 - Understand that copyright laws exist to protect original content creators
 - Understand that content they choose to use or upload on the internet may be subject to copyright laws/acknowledgements

History

Class 2 and 3 will continue to explore our History topic: the Maya Civilisation. The children have been engrossed in learning about who the Mayan people were, where they were based in the world, their religion and beliefs as well as the Gods they worshipped. This term we will look at their number system and calendars, their writing, the foods they ate and we will also look closely at some of the major Mayan cities before finishing with an end-of-unit piece of writing.

Art/DT

This term, Art will link to our History topic on the Mayans. The children will focus on Mayan art patterns and imitate innovate and finally invent their own patterns.

DT will focus on 3D Mayan structures. The children will explore, shape, form and stability before designing and building their own 3D structures in the Mayan style.

RE

This term we will continue to focus on our topic *What matters most to Christians and Humanists?* We have already explored values and beliefs and will continue to think about the following principles:

- honesty
- truth
- doing to others what you would like them to do you

The children will be asked to respond to words such as *fairness, justice, forgiveness and freedom*. We will consider a range of moral dilemmas and use role play to investigate more deeply.

Spanish

¡Hola a todos! (Hello everyone!)

For the next few weeks children in Y5 and Y6 will be learning vocabulary for clothing in Spanish. They will learn to describe what they are wearing and what others are wearing too. They will learn about subject pronouns in Spanish. They will be introduced to the conjugation of regular -AR verbs. Also, children will write Easter cards in Spanish.



Music

This half term we will be continuing with our topic on reggae. The class will perfect their instrumental part and move on to improvising in the song 'Three Little Birds'. We will look at the notes on the staff and write notes on ledger lines - notes beyond the staff. The class will continue to use musical games to develop their rhythmic co-ordination, musical memory and work on intonation.

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 this term's Unit of Work is **Physical Skills**, with a physical focus on static balance: standing on one leg and dynamic balance to agility. The learning goals for this unit are:

- I can effectively transfer skills and movements across a range of activities and sports. I can perform a variety of skills consistently and effectively in challenging or competitive situations.
- I can use combinations of skills confidently in sport specific contexts. I can perform a range of skills fluently and accurately in practice situations.
- I can perform a variety of movements and skills with good body tension. I can link actions together so that they flow in running, jumping and throwing activities.

PSHE

This term we will continue to focus on the development of Growth Mindsets during assemblies. The children will engage in a variety of activities within their assembly groups which will support positivity and resilience. We will begin by creating a school set of instructions on how to be a Superlearner.

