



Year 4 Newsletter

Africa



What we are learning about:

Spring 1 2025

Our topic/ theme this half term is: Africa

Geography: In Geography this half term, we will be reminding ourselves of world continents and oceans, before locating African countries, and key latitudinal lines such as the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn/Cancer. We will look a little more closely at Nigeria, finding out about culture, food and life in the big cities!

Art: In Art, we will be studying Benin bronzes and learning about the importance of sculpture in the Ancient city of Benin. We will then practise forming and joining clay, before designing and making our own Benin sculpture out of clay.

Music: Our topic in Music is called 'Compose with your friends'. We will play, improvise and compose using a selection of these notes: C, D, E, F, F#, G, A, Bb, B. Some of the songs that we will enjoy include, 'Bring us together', 'Old Joe Clark' and 'Dance with me'.

Computing: In Computing we will be learning how to present with Google Slides, practicing adding media and animation, and formatting information. We will then present to the rest of the class, based on a topic of our choice, linked to the wider curriculum.

P.E: In PE we will be learning to dance. The unit uses music, images and the children's imagination to build a spectacular performance of 3 parts. By the end of the unit, children will be able to perform basic movements to music and to build a simple themed dance focusing on 'Building Stonehenge'.

PSHE: In PSHE we will be focusing on 'Working Together' and 'Financial Capability'. We will learn how to use good communication when working on a task with others. We will also find out about different ways to gain money, including paid work, and different ways to keep safe and manage money.

R.E: In R.E our topic will be 'What do different people believe about God?' We will be looking at monotheistic religions, discovering similarities and differences in their beliefs.

Science: In Science this half term, we will be learning about rocks and soil. We will learn about different types of rocks and how they are formed. Using 'scientific enquiry', we will investigate rocks and soil, finding patterns and features. We will also discover how fossils are formed and why they are so important in supporting our understanding of the past.

English

Reading: This half term our class book will be 'Varjak Paw'.

Guided Reading: Children will work on the same areas each week, reinforcing these key skills; **interpret vocabulary in context, reading with fluency, prosody and comprehension.**

Writing: Our first model text this half term will be based on our reading book, Varjak Paw. Using our model text, we will spend time studying the characters, language features, setting and the story pattern. We will be recapping previously taught grammar and exploring new ones such as the present perfect tense and verb inflections. We will also be looking at how we can self and peer assess our work. Following this, we will be exploring the poem, 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll, practicing using intonation, expression and body language to perform our poem.

Maths: In Maths this half term, we will continue to learn strategies to help us multiply and divide, using number facts to support trickier multiplications. We will then be learning about length and perimeter, looking at the perimeter of polygons and rectilinear shapes.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths:

Multiply, times, lots of, product, divide, sharing, grouping, equal(ly), length, height, width, cm, mm, m, compare, add, subtract, measure, calculate, perimeter

English:

Character, 3rd person, progressive past tense, simple past tense, chronological order, time conjunctions, informal language, fronted adverbials, 5 senses, present perfect, verb inflections, description, direct speech, introduction, build up, problem, resolution, sentence openers, adverbs, verbs, adjectives, nouns, expanded noun phrases, apostrophe, self/peer assess, poetry, prosody, intonation, expression, performance, facial/body language