Year 3 Newsletter

The Railways

Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School

What we are learning about:

Summer 1 2025

Our topic/ theme this half term is: How did railways change Britain from the Victorian times to the modern day?

History: In History this half term, we will learn about the earliest railways, explore the changes in steam locomotives, whilst understanding the changes in locomotive technology and what that meant for society.

DT: In DT, we will be understanding the purpose of information design. Pupils will research to develop a range of initial ideas, then develop these into a final design of a Victorian steam train with light. We will then assemble the final product and incorporate a simple circuit. Finally leading to evaluating their electric poster.

Music: Our topic in Music is called 'Expression and Improvisation'. Singing and listening are at the heart of each lesson. Pupils will play, improvise and compose using a selection of these notes: C, D, E, F♯, G, A, B

Computing: In Computing, children will be introduced to touch typing, helping them understand which is the most effective positioning of their hands when typing. They will then be learning all about spreadsheets, creating pie charts and bar charts and using simple formulae.

P.E: In PE we will move onto OAA, (Outdoor Adventurous Activities). Our initial focus will be Teamwork – Trust and Cooperation. We will then move onto exploration and navigation with the use of maps of the school grounds.

PSHE: In PSHE we will be focusing on 'Digital lives.' We will be finding out what the children enjoy about online use and what worries them/upsets them. Whilst teaching them there are things they can do to keep themselves as safe as possible. This will include discussing age restrictions for certain apps.

R.E and world studies: In R.E and world studies, our topic will be 'What is right and wrong'. We will question what can we learn from different religions whilst deciding what is considered right and wrong and why. We will look at these in relation to the ten commandments and temptation.

Science: In Science this half term, we will be learning about Forces. We will be comparing how things move on different surfaces. Children will observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others. We will learn how magnets have 2 poles and what this means.

French: In French this half term, we will be learning about describing possessions. We will be describing zoo life, as well as the adventures of Tintin.

English Reading: This half term our class book will be 'The Iron man'.

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.** Our texts throughout the half term are, 'The Iron Man', **'**How to Train Your Dragon' and **'**Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race'

Writing: Our first model text this half term will be, 'The Iron Man'. Using this text, we will be creating a Narrative piece of writing, we will spend time studying the characters, language features, setting and the story pattern. This will be followed by Instructional writing, linked to 'How to train your dragon'. We will be looking at writing introductory paragraphs, chronological order for instructional writing, using time conjunctions and fronted adverbials.

Maths: In Maths this half term, we will be extending our knowledge about Fractions. We will be adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator, as well as partitioning whole fractions into different parts. We will then work on unit and non-unit fractions of amounts. After this, we will study Time; reading to the nearest minute, reading digital clock, as well as transferring between a.m and p.m. Children will know the number of seconds in a minute and the number of days in each month, year and leap year and compare durations of events.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths:

Denominator, numerator, integer, add, subtract, fraction, improper fraction, mixed number, partition.

Minute, hour, digital, analogue, digital, midnight, midday, morning, afternoon, evening

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