

Year 4 Spring Term—Curriculum Newsletter

Our World of Water

Class Teacher: Mr Shankar

As readers: The children will be reading a wide range of non-fictional and fictional texts across a variety of genres to encourage them to fall in love with reading as in independent pursuit and to get the most out of what they read. During reading lessons the children will continue to expand their vocabularies, make inferences and predictions and experience a variety of authors' voices and points of view.



As writers: Moving on from fiction and letter writing last term, we will be writing a biography of Wangari Maathai, the Nobel prize winning activist and conservationist who helped Kenya recover from increasing droughts caused by deforestation, together with an information text on water usage around the world. In the second half of term, we will consolidate our letter writing skills by writing an informal letter and add to our writing skills by writing a poem using kennings to imitate Anglo-Saxon poetry forms.

As mathematicians, in anticipation of the national multiplication tables assessment, we will be placing a strong emphasis on learning what multiplication is and to become fluent in our times tables. We will use a variety of tools to achieve this including TT Rockstars—the online multiplication game. From there, we will move to learning about division, the companion operator to multiplication. Using our multiplication and division skills we will move into calculating the area of rectilinear shapes. Following this we will build on previous learning from Year 3 on fractions, deepening the children's knowledge on how to perform simple calculations using fractions and how they touch our day to day lives. Finally, we will introduce the children to decimals as a pre-cursor to teaching the children about money in the summer term and understanding simple percentages.

As scientists, we will be learning about states of matter: solids, liquids, gasses and plasma and how temperature and pressure affect molecular structures. The children are introduced to the important ideas of atoms comprising all matter in the universe and how the water cycle works. We will then move onto learning about electricity, understanding how it is generated and building simple circuits to understand how it works.

As geographers, our focus will be on 'Our World of Water' - how it supports life on the planet, where it comes from, why it is such a precious natural resource and how water scarcity and climate change are pressing whole planet issues. We will continue to learn about the locations of countries, cities, natural features and cultures.

As historians, we will move from the Roman period of British history to the Anglo-Saxon period. The emphasis will be on human migration, but along the way we will learn about how artifacts are used, how the English language developed, and how many towns and cities got their names. We end at 1066—the Norman Conquest.

As artists, we will learn about Pablo Picasso and the cubist movement as part of the wider movement of abstract art. We will learn how to use colour to impart mood to an artwork and how to construct our own abstract and cubic art.

As designers, we will be learning about levers and linkages in mechanical systems. We will be using this learning as part of our Anglo-Saxon end of term display by making a figure of the Grendel or Beowulf with moveable arms and legs.

As musicians, we will continue to benefit from the Richmond Wider Opportunities scheme who will be providing us with a specialist singing teacher.

As athletes, your children will learn the rules and skills of the racquet game, badminton.

As members of our community, in exploring what can we do to conserve water and to help those around the world who suffer from water scarcity.

As computer users, in addition to using computers regularly for research and how to touch type on a keyboard, we will be learning how to program microbots and to create and use flat-file databases.

Enrichment

Our class trip this half term will be to visit a water sanitation plant so the children will get first hand knowledge about how water is used and re-used in society. (Covid restrictions dependant)

Make a Difference

Our class will be creating a video presentation to the whole school on the global importance of water and how we can help locally.

School Value of the Term



RESPONSIBILITY

UN Sustainable Goals

