Year 4: Autumn Term

The Power of Storytelling

Class Teacher: Mr Shankar

This term our topic is centred around folktales. We will be learning about folktales from around the world and how these very old forms of storytelling still resonate with us today.

As speakers, your children will learn to formulate their thoughts and to articulate them audibly and confidently.

As writers, your children will learn to spell and to use correct grammar and punctuation. They will learn how to write legibly in cursive.

As readers and writers of fiction, we want your child to fall in love with reading and the art of story-telling. They will understand how writers apply their craft with a view to using those skills themselves. Your children will learn to use their own experiences as inspiration for their own writing and to mimic styles used in class texts. Our focus will be on the folk tale. Folk tales are a great introduction for children to understand the structure of narrative prose – the plots and themes are often universal and timeless and applicable to most forms of fiction writing.

As readers and writers of non-fiction, your children will learn to evaluate whether a text achieves its purpose and to understand the point of view from which the text is written. They will learn techniques to persuade a reader and to discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material.

As readers of poetry, our class poet this year will be Valerie Bloom.

Class texts:

The Tinderbox	A classic European folktale by Hans Christian Andersen.
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	A popular African folktale.
The Children of Lir	An ancient Irish folktale.

As mathematicians, your children will to learn how to add and subtract using numbers up to 10,000, work with perimeter and understand the numerical relationships within the 3, 6 and 9 times tables. As the children will be required to take a multiplication tables test at the end of the academic year, there will be an emphasis on multiplication throughout the term. In addition, the children will take a weekly arithmetic quiz.

As scientists, we will explore how to classify vertebrates and plants and understand how the digestive system works including how to look after our teeth. We will explore the following questions: Why do we need to eat? How do we turn food into the nutrients we need to survive? What happens if we eat too little, too much or the wrong types of food? Why is it important for everyone to have enough to eat? What can we do to help people who do not have enough to eat?

As geographers, your child will learn how to interpret and draw maps. In particular they will gain an understanding of scale and direction. They will learn the locations of natural features in the UK and major countries of the world. They will put their geography to practical use in history and topic work.

As historians, your child will learn about the rise of the Roman Empire and different forms of government. In addition to learning relevant facts, the children will look at the relationships be-tween the conquered and the conquerors and the proposition that history is written by the victors.

As artists, your children will be learning how to illustrate and caption a poem and presenting their results in an 'accordion book'.

As designers, your children will be learning about the principles of pneumatics.

As musicians, your children will be learning about music from South Africa, the fundamentals of staff notation and will perform a South African Xylophone piece.

As theologians, your children will be looking at what it means to follow Buddha. Through this learning, we will think about what we can learn about Buddhism and how it links to our own school values. After half term, we shall be exploring the question 'What do sacred texts within Hinduism say about God?'.

As athletes, your children will deepen their skills in playing invasion games and they will learn how regular exercise is a vital part of a healthy living.

As members of our community, we will be exploring what we can do to help people who don't have enough to eat. In addition, the children will take part in our school community eco-clean up group run by Mr Porter.

As computer users, we will apply our knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. We will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet. After half term, we shall be using Audacity to produce a podcast, which will include editing our work, adding multiple tracks, and opening and saving the audio files.

Enrichment

Our class trips will include a trip to a Buddhist monastery.

School Values

Equality—We celebrate our differences and treat everyone equally and fairly.

Make a difference - We want to make a difference to help our community