

Year 4 Newsletter – Autumn Term



What we have been learning this term:

What a wonderful start to the new year we have had!

English – We have been our versions of the stories “Tar Beach”, “The Mermaid of Zennor” and “The Dream giver.” We have been focusing on joining our handwriting and keeping it consistent and neat.

Reading – We have been focusing on developing our fluency and doing close reads of texts, thinking about the writer’s intent and what devices the writer uses. We have read the books, “Gregory Cool,” “Malala’s Magic Pencil” and “The Iron Man.”

Maths – We have been learning the place value of numbers up to a thousand and comparing numbers and putting them in order. We have learnt about area and in particular rectilinear shapes. We have also been learning about multiples of 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12 and their inverse division facts.

Science – We started the term by learning how to classify living things and rocks. We have experimented making shadows and have also created our own classification branching databases.

Art – We have been studying the drawings by the artist Leonardo Da Vinci. We have been practising different shading, hatching and cross-hatching techniques and have used them to sketch mechanical objects in the style of Da Vinci.

Design and Technology – We have been learning about lots of different aspects of food safety. We will also be practicing using pivots, levers and linkages.

History – We have been learning about the Victorians – including washing, the industrial revolution and medicine.

Geography – We have been learning about natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes and where most of them are located.

PSHE – We have been learning about different aspects of keeping ourselves safe and looking after our health and well-being. We have also been learning about personal space and internet safety with regards to images.

RE – We have learning about the concepts of Rituals and Imagery.

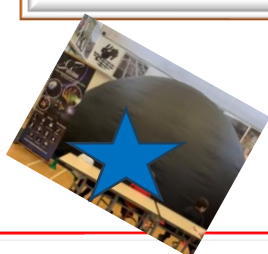
Computing – We have been learning about data logging.

Music – We have been learning how to use the app “garage band” and digital music technology.

PE – We have been learning how to line dance. We have also been doing gymnastics, football attacking skills and improving our fitness.

Spanish – We have been learning how to talk about ourselves - Me Presento.

Other – We have created our class charters and elected our Pupil Voice Representatives. We also had our visit from the “Explorer Dome” and learnt about the Earth (see photo). We will be making Christingles and shared our artwork with buddy classes and our parents.



Next term’s home-learning:

- Please can the children keep practicing their times tables. Parents should have received a letter about the multiplication checks at the end of the year.
- Can you make up your own sporting game that could be used at our modern day Olympics? Bring in a poster about your game and it’s rules! (optional)
- Read your library books and bring them in to be changed – we go to the library weekly.

Next half term, we will be learning...

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Learning</u>
Reading	Main texts: "The Firework Maker's Daughter" by Philip Pullman and "The Butterfly Lion" by Michael Morpurgo. Our class read will be "The Boy who swam with Piranhas" by David Almond.
Writing	We will be using the texts "Winter's Child" by Angela McAllister and "Cinnamon" by Neil Gaiman as inspiration for our writing.
Maths	Multiplication and Division Length and Perimeter Fractions Decimals
Science	Using different types of investigation to answer more complex questions, making careful and systematic observations. The life cycle of flowering plants. Food chains: predators, producers and prey. How sound is created and the strength of vibrations. Comparing how things move on different surfaces. Investigate thermal conductivity.
PSHE	Relationships – caring friendships. Fire, road and water safety. Money management.
RE	The concepts will be Peace and Identity. We will look specifically at The Buddha Rupa and the Jewish faith.
History/Geography	The Olympics of Ancient Greece – the role Zeus played in the games and what happened at the battle of Marathon. We will consider food distribution in Europe.
DT/Art	Water colour paintings by JMW Turner. Design and cook pizza. Explore different types of stitching.
Computing	We will be exploring how data is collected over time. We will present and explain data that we collect.
Music	We will be learning to recognise the symbols for minims, crochets and semibreves and how many beats each represent.
Spanish	We will be learning the nouns for family members as well as learning to count to 100.
PE	Our sports coaches will be teaching us the skills involved in Basketball such as passing and defending. We will also be learning street dancing and practicing our gymnastic skills.

Key Dates

- In the first couple of weeks of January we will be having a visitor in school to lead a Democracy assembly.
- Monday 11 March – Thursday 28th March: swimming lessons for Year 4 at Bitterne Leisure Centre (information to follow)
- Looking ahead to the Summer term, Southampton City Mission are coming in to do a Question of Faith day on "Sacred Places".

