

Happy New Year!

We hope after a restful and jolly Christmas, that the children are ready to get stuck in to the spring term.

We are very excited for our upcoming Mayan topic, which will be the core theme that will run through lots of our English writing and foundation subjects, allowing the children to make cross-curricular links and explore new learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss your child's school life. Feel free to use the email addresses below, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Mr Quilter & Mrs Glover/Miss Johnson

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The Mystery of the Mayans...

Our topic is the Mayans and their inhabitation of South America. The children will immerse themselves in understanding the wonders of the South American continent and the history left behind by the Mayans. With fingers (and toes) crossed, we will hopefully welcome a visitor to transport us back during a mystical Mayan day to consolidate our learning at the end of term!

The Mayan topic is complemented by world geography. The children will gain an understanding of different climate zones across the world and the major features of these zones. This leads to a focus on the geography, climate zone and biomes of South America, where some Mayan tribes still live today.

Homework

Homework will be based on the core learning of that week and will either be on Google Classroom or MyMaths. This homework will also be accompanied with guided reading homework on a Monday to be handed in by Thursday of the same week. We would very much appreciate you continuing to read **with and to** your child regularly as it really does make a difference. These changes are in line with our new homework policy that can be found on the school's website.



Dates for your diary:

8 & 9th February - Parents evening

14th – 18th February – half Term

21st and 22nd February – Inset days (Non-pupil days)

1st April - Last day of Spring term

Guided Reading

After a successful start to our guided reading this year, the children will now be looking at a new text, experiencing a different genre and author style. Led by an adult, we will continue to develop understanding of vocabulary, deduction, inference and comprehension skills. Each homework for the previous week, will form part of the following week's group discussion to build on prior knowledge and skills. We strive for the children to be able to complete their homework independently as this gives us a clearer view of their understanding. Please let us know if your child has needed help and we can ensure this is supported in school. Each homework will be individually marked so please take a look at all the wonderful feedback and maybe celebrate some house points!

Computing

First we will revisit e-safety and how to protect our personal information online.

This term, the children will be developing their skills when using applications such as Word, Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint. This will include learning about the different tools and features to each program.

Life Skills

We will be discussing and exploring a range of subjects in life skills., starting with anti-social behaviour and how as a community and individually we can combat it. This will include how in modern times, this can be experienced through technology as well.

We will also be looking at healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and how this can affect us individually and as a society.

Music

This term the children be exploring and creating composition in groups using musical notation about the dynamics of music such as pitch, volume, timbre and texture with a variety of untuned instruments.

They will be learning the call and response format to accompany the famous Mayan game, Pok-a-tok.

English

Our writing this term will have a technical focus on sentence structure, advanced punctuation and cohesion to link our paragraphs, advancing the children's upper key-stage two writing skills.

We will do this through a variety of text types linked to our topic of the Mayans. Our first piece of writing linked to the topic will be a persuasive argument after completing discussions and activities around museums and artefacts. Moving on from this, we will create our own monster from Mayan mythology and explore what life was like for different Mayan citizens through diary entries and information texts.

P.E.

Grab your partner and get you dancing shoes on, as this term we are country dancing! We will be practising and perfecting elements from country dances from all over the world.

For outdoor PE, first of all we will be strengthening our basketball skills and tactics to be able to play competitively against our peers.

As the warmer weather sneaks in, it will be used to develop our aerobic fitness through various heart racing HIIT activities.

Art

This term we will be looking at frescoes. The main skill we will be working on is paint washes, which will lead up to creating a smooth gradient for the background of our final pieces. A Mayan hieroglyph will be used as the subject, which will give us an opportunity to revise sketching and fine detail painting skills.

Maths

In maths we will be extending the children's understanding of fractions decimals and introducing percentages. Through shape, we will be learning how to measure and calculate area and perimeter.

Addition, subtraction, division and multiplication, were a big focus during last term, therefore the children will be mastering these skills through reasoning and problem solving regularly this term.

R E

The focus this term will be on Islam and Christianity. We will explore the five pillars of Islam and how they uphold the values of Islamic faith.

Similarly, in Christianity (providing an opportunity for comparison) we will be learning about the Ten Commandments and how Christians follow these in their daily lives.



Science and Design & Technology

During the first half of the term, we will be building on our prior knowledge of properties of materials from the autumn term. This will consist of learning additional properties of materials such as electro and thermal conductivity, investigating these through experiments. This will link directly with our design and technology unit where we will be designing and building a shelter suitable for the rainforest.