

Happy New Year!

We hope after a restful and jolly Christmas the children focused and ready to engage in their learning. We are very excited for our upcoming Mayan topic, which will be the core theme throughout the term, 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 progress. You can contact the office or email us.

Miss Baker & Miss Brewer

miss.baker@greattotham.essex.sch.uk miss.brewer@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

The Mystery of the Mayans...

The children will immerse themselves in understanding the wonders of Mesoamerica and the history left behind by the Mayans. To support the children's understanding, they will learn about climate zones, biomes and world countries and capitals, particularly those in North and Central America. During the topic, there will be a Mayan workshop enabling the children to bring their learning to life and consolidate understanding. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Homework

Guided Reading: Set: Monday due: Thursday the same week

Maths: Set: Monday due: Following Monday

Please continue to encourage your child to complete their homework on time (which will be set via Google Classrooms/My Maths). They should spend no longer than 40 minutes on each in addition to any reading. Also, we would very much appreciate you continuing to read with and to your child regularly as it really does make a difference especially to comprehension and developing vocabulary. We continue to promote and encourage the children to choose books from a wide range of genres.



Dates for your diary:

14th & 15th February: Parents evenings

5th March: Mayan Day

7th March: World Book Day

28th March: 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. The children will continue to develop their vocabulary, deduction, inference and comprehension skills. The children would benefit from completing their homework independently to give us a clear view of their understanding. However, if your child has needed help, please let us know so that we can support them in school.

Each homework is individually marked so please make sure your child looks at all the feedback and acts upon it before the next session.

Computing

The children will revisit e-safety and learn how to protect their personal information online.

They will learn about the different tools and features for various programs, including Word, Publisher and Excel. This will enable them to make informed decisions about the most appropriate program to use for different tasks.

P.E.

Building on previous gymnastics units, the children will be refining vaulting skills and creating more advanced sequences.

For outdoor PE, the first focus will be on improving skills and tactics in basketball. These will be used to play competitive games within our year group. After this, the children will explore different activities including aerobics and use this to improve fitness. To finish the term, we will be practising and perfecting elements from country dances from all over the world.

Art

As the Mayans decorated walls with frescoes, we will explore the effects of different medium, brushes and strokes for background and detail work to then work in groups to create an imitation fresco on a larger scale. Building on using Year 4 skill, the children will develop perspective in drawing.

English

Linked to our Mayan topic the children will select appropriate text-features for a range of genres, including, explanation, narrative, poetry and a balanced argument. There will be a technical focus on sentence structure, advanced punctuation and how to link paragraphs cohesively. Handwriting and spelling will continue to be practised weekly.

Life Skills

At the start of the term, the focus will be on how technology use can affect lifestyle, health and well-being. In addition, we will explore the negative effects of photo shopping and recognise that the media doesn't always reflect reality. We will learn about antisocial behaviour and understand its potential consequences. We will also be looking at healthy and unhealthy habits and their impact. Lastly, the children will discuss the benefits of living in a diverse society.

Maths

We will be extending the children's understanding of fractions and decimals before introducing percentages. They will learn how to measure and calculate area and perimeter. Building on prior learning the children will draw and measure angles and use this knowledge to reason about shapes. The children will further their understanding of measure, including time and volume.

Regular practise of key calculation skills will continue with daily fluency checks to ensure children have retained the learning.

RE

The focus this term will be on Islam. We will explore the five pillars of Islam and the commitments Muslims make to their religion.

Science and Design & Technology

We will be building on prior knowledge of properties of materials and learn about electro and thermal conductivity with the opportunity to investigate these through a range of experiments. This will link with our DT project where we will be designing and building a shelter suitable for an archaeologist investigating the Ancient Mayans.

Music

This term the children be exploring a variety of untuned instruments and using these to create compositions based on the Mayan Pok a Tok game. They will record their compositions using graphical notation to represent musical elements.

They will then have the opportunity to perform and evaluate their compositions.