

Welcome to 2022 Year 3! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed seeing in the New Year - let's hope it is bright! We hope the children are raring to go for what should be a fun packed term of activities. This term we focus on the history of early mankind from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. We will also be studying the topic of Light and Shadow.



Journey Through Time - Yabba Dabba Doo!

History and Geography

Our main topic is the Stone Age to Iron Age and understanding how life changed during this time. Using different sources of evidence, the children will learn about the first settlers in Britain and how they lived. They will also learn about key settlements of the Stone Age, looking at how the people of the Stone Age moved around the world, where they eventually settled and why. They will also learn to recognise some physical geographical features, for example, rivers and mountains.

Art and DT

In art, throughout the first half term the children will be using their sculpting skills to design and create a Stone Age inspired pot, learning about different ways to mould and shape clay.

In DT, the children will be using their textiles skills to design and make a Stone Age inspired gathering pouch, developing their skills of stitching and joining material.

Maths

Having improved their understanding of all four operations, the children will now build upon these through their application in problem solving in a number of contexts. We will further develop understanding of telling the time to the nearest minute (a sometimes tricky subject). The more you can practise reading an analogue clock at home, the better! If you need some guidance, please do not hesitate to speak to us. The children will also be learning about key units of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years). Measure is another focus, with the children measuring and calculating length, mass and capacity accurately. These are all skills which you could practise at home with the children. The children will also be working with money and applying their calculation skills within this, again any practise at home would be beneficial. The children will be extending their understanding of fractions, calculating fractions of amounts and adding and subtracting fractions within a whole. Why not use a pizza evening to practise some of these skills?

Times tables remain a huge focus, particularly the division facts, as we continue to look at the 3, 4, 6 and 8 times tables as well as practising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

English

The children will write in a range of genres including: narrative, instructions, information texts, personal recounts whilst writing in role, descriptive writing and descriptive poetry. As a writer, the children will continue to develop their understanding of the effect of their writing through the use of adverbs, appropriate vocabulary choices and expanded noun phrases. They will write different types of sentence and recognise the need for accurate punctuation and spelling. Please encourage your child to develop their vocabulary through regular reading at home, discussing the meaning of new words.

Weekly guided reading will continue to take place where your child will develop core comprehension skills.

Music

The children will explore how un-tuned instruments can be used to create interesting compositions based around the life of a hunter gatherer. They will try to match the timbre of the instruments to the topic given.

French

Throughout the term, the children will continue to learn numbers and be introduced to the days of the week and months of the year, continuing to carry out simple conversations and learning how to write these using basic phrases or sentences.

Science and Art

During our science unit on light and shadow, the children will learn how to be safe when using light sources such as torches. They will use simple observational skills to investigate how light travels and learn that without light we cannot see. They will plan and carry out investigations of reflective materials and investigate how shadows are formed. They will refine the skills of making appropriate predictions and explaining what they have found out from their investigations.

Our second art unit will use the work of Kumi Yamashita as a stimulus. They will learn about the artist. Then they will develop drawing skills through exploring different grades of pencil and techniques such as pointillism. Finally, they will create a sculpture and use this to create a shadow, which will be used in their final composition.

Computing

Throughout our computing sessions this term, the children will carry out efficient internet searches using keywords, while continuing to develop their understanding of how to save their research to the school network. They will then learn how to create a multimedia presentation using the program Microsoft PowerPoint. Typing skills will also continue to be practised.

Life Skills

The children will learn to recognise reasons for conflict and develop some strategies to help resolve these. They will explore their feelings and consider how words can affect other people. Also, they will learn about rules and laws.

The children will begin to consider how the media influences people and develop an understanding of stereotypes and learn ways to challenge these. Finally, they will gain a deeper understanding of risks, dangers and hazards and how negative pressure can put them at risk.

RE

The children will look at the Christian faith. They will explore the Bible in more detail, learn about some of the different books in the Bible and how to look up Bible references. In the second half term, the focus moves to Judaism, with the children beginning to identify some of the similarities between Christianity and Judaism. They will also learn about the importance of the home for Jewish people, kosher food and Shabbat. Finally, they will learn about the festival of Pesach. They will consider how religion can have an impact on the lives of believers.

In addition, the children will learn about the Creation Story and the story of Adam and Eve. Towards the end of the term, they will learn more about the Easter story.

Homework

Following some changes to our homework policy, we will now be asking the children to make sure that they read and discuss what they have read with an adult at least three times a week at home. Please record this in their green reading record.

To support their fluency in key number facts, the children will be set two tasks, one on a Friday and one on a Tuesday, with a week to complete each task. Some of the tasks will be activities set on My Maths and some will be set on Google Classrooms, but we will post on Google Classroom each week to let you know where to find the homework.

Thank you for your support in the first term with reading and times tables. It really does, and has, made a big difference to the children's confidence.

If you would like to have a discussion with either of us about your child, please email on

miss.campling@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or mr.kitchener@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or make a more formal appointment via the office.

Miss Campling and Mr Kitchener

PE

Indoor PE will be gymnastics for the first half term. The children will learn techniques for handstands and cartwheels. Then, they will practise and improve their linking moves and jumps, learning which can be adapted to different types of apparatus.

Our creative dance unit is based on our Stone Age topic. Children will learn to respond to stimuli to create different phrases of movement, which can be linked to make a dance.

During outdoor PE, the children will develop their skills of dribbling and passing the ball in basketball. They will work together to devise simple games to practise these skills, beginning to think about attacking and defending strategies. They will also take part in some fitness sessions to develop their stamina and strength and learn some skipping activities.

Our PE days will be Monday (indoor) and Tuesday (outdoor). As the months are colder please ensure your child has the correct clothing for outdoor sessions. Please refer to the uniform policy to help you with this and make sure that complete PE kits are in school at all times, **including socks.**