

Curriculum Information

Sycamore, Rowan and Larch

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Our topic for this half term is Life as a Palaeontologist

This includes:

History- The Stone Age to the Iron Age

The children will begin by exploring the meaning of the term 'prehistory' and identify the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age on a timeline. They will find out what archaeologists do and how they find out about the past without written records. Next, they will explore the Palaeolithic period and how the first people came to Britain, examining different species of early man and finding out about the lives and achievements of early Homo sapiens. The children will find out how Britain's coastline changed during the Mesolithic period, investigating the site of Star Carr to find out about the lives of people during this period, including aspects such as food, housing, clothes and tools. The children will move on to explore how life developed from the Mesolithic to Neolithic period, examining the site of Stonehenge and using a variety of sources to find and infer facts. Children will explore how bronze is made and the effect bronze had on life in Britain. They will explore life and community in Britain's first permanent settlements and then explore how iron was mined and used during the Iron Age and how this changed life in Britain. They will also examine Roman and Greek accounts of life in Iron Age Britain. To finish the children will consolidate their learning and describe what life was like, and how people and technology developed throughout prehistory.

Science- Evolution and Inheritance

The children will begin by learning about traits that are passed from one generation to the next, and consider ways in which some inherited characteristics may vary. They will identify ways in which families or groups of people have some similar or shared characteristics. They will move on to learn about how random mutations may or may not be passed from one generation to the next, and how this process results in variation, considering whether certain variations are advantageous, giving reasons why. Children will learn about how, if traits are advantageous to a species, they may be passed on and that evolution can occur, identifying advantageous traits of species and sequence a description of the evolutionary processes. Next, the children will learn about the contributions of ancient Greek scientists to our understanding of evolution by studying the work of Carl Linnaeus and that of Charles Darwin. Children will learn about mutations, and how external factors can affect the evolution of a species and how the fossil record provides evidence of this. To finish the children will learn about human adaptations which allow us to thrive, then consider some impacts of human behaviour on other species.

Art- Cave paintings

The children will begin by exploring ideas through sketches of animal shapes. They will move on to sketching these using a variety of materials, such as chalks, charcoal and paint. Using manipulatives, they will move onto blending lines to create shadow and depth. They will then finish by evaluating their own and their pears work.

Computing - Creating a documentary using Green Screening

Children will begin by researching different documentaries linked to the work of significant individuals within this field to develop their understanding of the factual information that will be required. In teams, they will progress to creating both a script and a storyboard for their documentary before then researching, and saving, the different backgrounds required for their screening. Working from their finalised plans, children will then film their documentary in front of a green screen. Once the filming is complete, the children will edit and add their background to the film.

Other subjects:

PE - Swimming (*Tuesday*) and Circuit Training (*Friday*)

PSHE - Health and Wellbeing: Healthy Lifestyles

French: Months and Seasons

Pupil Parliament: Understanding the difference between Parliament and Government

Music - Charanga: Make You Feel My Love and A New Year Carol

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English:

Biographies and Autobiographies (*Boy by Roald Dahl and a study of Charles Darwin)*

Mathematics:

Year 5: Multiplication & Division, Fractions, Area and Perimeter

Year 6: Decimals and Percentages, Algebra, Ratio and Geometry

For specific learning objectives and coverage in English and Maths, please speak to your child's class teacher or look at the Spring term planning document on the school website within your child's class page.

Homework & Spellings:

Weekly Tasks: Every Monday, your child will be set two homework tasks: one English and one Maths. They will have until the following Monday to complete them. Their homework tasks may be written comprehension, punctuation and grammar, written pieces or online tasks from School 360. They will be based upon what they have been learning in class in order to consolidate their new knowledge, skills and understanding. Details of weekly homework tasks can be found in children's planners as well as on the school website within your child's class page.

Spellings: Spellings will be set and tested each Monday.

Mental Maths: J2Blast on School360 and Times Tables Rockstars should be used at home by the children on a weekly basis to develop their fluency and times tables skills. Children have their own usernames and passwords for accessing both programmes. Metal maths skills will be tested on a weekly basis.

Reading: Guided Reading will take place on a weekly basis. ***Please ensure that both yourself and your child comment regularly in the reading record.* Also, it is important that your child reads a range of literature (magazines, books, newspapers) for at least one hour per week so please encourage them to use both the school library and local library.

Planners: Children have their own planners to record homework, PE days and important dates. We ask that you sign their planner every week, it is also available to communicate with your child's teacher.

Pencil cases: We would like to encourage all children to have a pencil case at school. As a minimum, each child's pencil case should contain: two black biro pens, a pencil and sharpener, a ruler and a rubber, this being in preparation for High School.

PE Kits: Children must have their PE Kit in school every Friday along with appropriate footwear. The school's expectations of these kits can be found in your child's planner on Page 5. Where children are not able to participate in their allocated PE lesson, they will join another KS2 class and be given work to complete.

Wellies and outdoor shoes: Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies or outdoor shoes available in school at all times for playtime as well as outdoor learning activities

Dates for the diary:

- ✓ Week commencing:13th January 2020, 3:00pm to 4:00pm – Year 6 Master Classes begin (*Tuesday = Maths Master Classes / Thursday = English Master Classes*)
- ✓ Thursday 23rd January: Rowan Class Assembly at 2:30pm
- ✓ Friday 14th February: School Closed (Teacher Training Day)

Please also use the school website to keep up to date with your child's learning. Teachers regularly update their class pages with photographs and important information for parents.

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