

Curriculum Information

Sycamore Class, Rowan Class

& Larch Class

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Our topic for this term is Time Travellers: Marvellous Mayans

This includes:

Geography – Central America: Exploring Mesoamerica

Children will begin by locating the countries of North and South America on the world map, using atlases. Following on by locating Mesoamerica on a world map, identifying the modern countries and cities that are now located where the Mayans lived. They will then explore the position of lines of latitude, longitude, equator and the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and explain the significance of them. They will then use a variety of sources of information, including graphs, to explore the physical geography features of Mesoamerica, using 'street view' functions on online maps to explore the area and identify similarities and differences of these features. To finish the children will investigate what life is like for modern Mayans, by exploring how it is similar to or different from the life of Mayans in the 1st century. They will do this by using photographs and other sources of information to find out facts.

History- Mayan Civilisation: Conquest of the Aztecs

The children will begin by finding out about the Spanish conquistadors and their expeditions in Mesoamerica. They will look at some of the Mayan temple ruins and generate questions that the conquistadors might have asked, as well as questions they would like to find the answers to themselves. Children will learn what an archaeologist does and look at how artefacts can help us find out about the Mayan civilisation. They will be given an overview of the Mayan civilisation and start to order events chronologically. They will move onto thinking about how our society is run and who makes our decisions before comparing this with how Mayan society was structured. They will find out about different groups of Mayan people from kings and nobles to slaves and farmers, as well as how Mayans lived in various independent city states. Children will find out what the Mayans believed; how this affected their daily lives, exploring some of the Mayan gods and what they demanded from the Mayan people. Children will generate questions surrounding the everyday lives of ordinary Mayans. They will use a variety of different sources of information to find answers to their questions and present their findings in a variety of ways. Children will learn out about some of the major achievements of the Maya, specifically a complete writing and number system, and the development of calendars. They will consider the importance of writing from the Mayans in helping historians find out about the past. Children will finish by looking at evidence for battles between city states and consider some of the reasons for the decline of the Mayan civilisation. They will think about what could have caused Mayans to abandon their major cities and discover that the Mayans didn't disappear completely and that smaller pockets of Mayan people still live in the area today.

Art – Mayan Masks: The funerary mask of Lord Pakal

Children will recreate Mayan masks by exploring the mask of Lord Pakal. They will investigate other uses for Mayan masks. The children will use a variety of techniques, including papier mâché to create Mayan masks

Design and Technology – Bonampak Murals

Children will design, make and evaluate a model of a Mayan temple. They will start by looking at examples of Mayan temples exploring shape and structure. They will then investigate ways of creating sturdy structures. The children will finish by using a variety of materials to design, make and evaluate a model of a Mayan temple, including using 3D nets.

Computing – Word and Publisher

The children will begin by understanding how to change fonts and colours in a word and publisher document. They will then learn how to change layout and margins in a document. They will then move onto understanding spell check and how to use it correctly. Children will investigate how to create a leaflet and use copy and paste to insert pictures into a document.

Other subjects:

- P.E.** -Swimming and Benchball
- R.E.** - Islam: Importance of worship and community for Muslims.
- P.S.H.E.** -Healthy Lifestyle and Healthy Relationships
- French** -French: Christmas Vocabulary
- Music** -Fresh Prince of Bel Air

English: - Information Texts (The History Detective Investigates: Mayan Civilization)
- Historical Fiction (*Treasure Island* - *Robert Louis Stevenson*)

English involves the development of speaking and listening, drama, reading, comprehension, grammar and writing skills. Children will have a variety of opportunities to develop and demonstrate mastery within their reading and comprehension both in the classroom and for some during weekly guided reading sessions. They will also be able to apply their skills across other areas of the curriculum during their topic work.

During their English lessons, children will be working from cross curricular units of work, each of which will last between 2-4 weeks. Each term, children will experience a range of narrative, non-fiction and poetry texts.

Mathematics:

Children will develop and demonstrate mastery in their knowledge, skills and understanding within key areas in Mathematics: number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, decimals and percentages, measure, properties of shape (geometry) and statistics. The children's ability to 'reason' will be developed throughout all of their mathematical work as they are encouraged to explain how they have reached solutions to problems.

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 Sumdog or School 360 and they will be based upon what they have been learning in class in order to consolidate their new knowledge, skills and understanding.

Spellings: Spellings will be set and tested each Monday.

Mental Maths: J2Blast on School360 should be used by the children on a weekly basis to develop their times tables skills. Times tables and mental maths skills will then be tested on a weekly basis.

Reading: Guided Reading (for some) will take place on a weekly basis (Larch: Monday/Rowan: Thursday /Sycamore: Friday).

**Please ensure that you and your child comment in their reading record on a regular basis.

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: They will record any homework and important dates in these. We ask that you sign their planner every week, it is also available to communicate with their 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, in preparation for High School.

Wellies and outdoor shoes: Now Winter is upon us we ask that all children have a pair of named wellies or outdoor shoes available in school at all times.

