



Curriculum Information

Rowan and Larch November - December 2021

Produced by:

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www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



Our topic for this half term is Time Travellers: Marvellous Mayans

This includes:

Geography - Central America: Exploring Mesoamerica

Children will begin by locating Mesoamerica on a world map, identifying the modern countries and cities that are now located where the Mayans lived. They will then use a variety of sources of information, including graphs, to explore the physical geography of Mesoamerica. Using 'street view' functions on online maps, they will explore the area and identify 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, 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, looking at some of the Mayan temple ruins and generating questions that the conquistadors may have asked, as well as questions they would like to find the answers to themselves. Children will move on to learn what an archaeologist does and how artefacts can help us find out about the Mayan civilisation. Using their mathematical skills, the children will order important events from The Mayan civilisation chronologically. Moving on the children will begin to think about how our society is run and who makes our decisions before comparing this with how Mayan society was structured. The children 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 investigate Mayan beliefs and Gods and how this affected their daily lives and what the Gods demanded from the Mayan people. Children will move on to generating questions about the everyday lives of ordinary Mayans and using a variety of different sources of information to find answers to their questions, presenting their findings in a variety of ways. Children will learn about some of the major achievements of the Maya, specifically their writing and number systems, 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 then finish by looking at evidence from battles between city states and consider some of the reasons for the decline of the Mayan civilisation and what could have caused Mayans to abandon their major cities, discovering 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 investigate and recreate Mayan masks by exploring the mask of Lord Pakal. They will investigate other uses for Mayan masks before progressing to use a variety of techniques, including papier mâché, to design and create their own.

Computing - Creating Adobe Spark Videos

The children will begin by logging into the online software system and investigating the different templates available before selecting an appropriate one. They will then move on to creating their Adobe Spark videos by inserting videos, pictures and altering size and position. They will finish by reordering their slides, recording a narration for their video and inserting music. Their videos will then be shared with peers and constructive criticism given to help identify strengths and areas for further development.

Other subjects:

P.E. Attacking and Defending (NUF) and Swimming

P.S.H.E. Celebrating Differences

R.E. Christianity: Is the Christmas Story True?

French Christmas Vocabulary

Music Classroom Jazz

Pupil Parliament COP26-Climate change



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 parent.

English: - Instructions and Explanations - Ancient Sports Academy
- Classic poetry - The Tyger by William Blake
- Picture books - Rain Player by David Wisniewski

Instructions and explanations.

They will retrieve and record information, moving onto analysing a set of instructions- identifying and understanding their importance. Using these the children will write a simple set of instructions before moving onto analysing a more expanded set including parenthesis and parentheses to demarcate. The children will develop their proof reading- to spot errors and editing skills to improve sentence structure and vocabulary choice.

Classic Poetry

The children will analyse poetry, annotating the features before discussing and evaluating how the author uses figurative language and the impact on the reader. They will then use the poem as inspiration to develop their own descriptive poem using rhyming words and selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning. They will then write and perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear.

Picture Books

The children will develop their descriptive writing skills by writing descriptions about the scenes and use dialogue to advance the actions. They will develop their vocabulary by using synonyms for said. Moving on, the children will understand the difference between active and passive voice and how passive voice can create changes in perspective.

Mathematics: Multiplication & Division, Area & Perimeter, Fractions and Geometry

Children will develop and demonstrate mastery in their knowledge, skills and understanding of number, fractions and geometry this half term.

They will multiply and divide whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 whilst identifying multiples and factors, this including all factor pairs of a number and common factors of two numbers. Children will recognise square numbers and cube numbers, using the notation for squared (²) and cubed (³) as well as use the vocabulary of prime numbers, prime factors and composite (non-prime) numbers. Children will then be able to establish whether a number up to 100 is prime and recall prime numbers up to 19.

When learning about the area and perimeter of shapes, children will measure the perimeter of composite rectilinear shapes in cm and m and calculate and compare the area of rectangles, including using standard units, cm², m². Children will also develop an understanding of estimating the area of irregular shapes.

When learning about fractions, children will use common factors to simplify fractions and use common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination. They will compare and order fractions, including fractions > 1 and generate and describe linear number sequences (with fractions). Children will learn to add and subtract fractions with different denominations and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions to do this. Children will multiply simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form. As they continue to calculate with fractions, they will divide proper fractions by whole numbers and begin to associate a fraction with division. Finally, children will recall and use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts

The children's ability to 'reason' will be developed throughout all of their mathematical work as they are continuously encouraged to explain, justify and deepen their thinking.

Homework & Spellings

Weekly Tasks: Every Monday, your child will continue to be set online homework tasks within their Google Classroom account. Now that our homework routines are well established, and in line with our homework policy, your child will now be set both an English and Maths task each week. These will be used to either prepare children for a new topic or consolidate new knowledge, skills and understanding. All children will have six days in which to complete and submit their homework. If your child has any difficulties accessing their homework online, please contact their class teacher and alternative arrangements can be discussed.

Spellings: Spellings will continue be set each Monday on www.spellingframe.co.uk and made live for six days. It is important that your child routinely practises their spellings as well as completes two online tests each week.

Mental Maths: Times Tables Rockstars and Sumdog should continue to be used by your child on a weekly basis to develop and secure their times tables skills. Metal maths skills will be tested on a weekly basis by class teachers.

Reading: Your child will access their weekly reading homework online through Reading Plus. They will need to read online for a minimum of 30 minutes each week, selecting texts that they are interested in and answering a range of comprehension questions in order to demonstrate their understanding.

It is also important that your child reads a range of literature. Please encourage them to read magazines, letters and newspapers for at least one hour per week in addition to the above homework expectations.

PE Kits: Children in UKS2 will continue to have sports coaching sessions on a Friday with staff from the Newcastle United Foundation. They will need to come to school dressed in their outdoor PE kit on this day.

Please note that our UKS2 children will either swim or have an additional coaching session with NUF on a Tuesday this term as well. Further details can be found in the UKS2 PE letter sent to parents at the beginning of term.

Wellies / Outdoor shoes / Coat: Please ensure that your child has a pair of named outdoor shoes and a coat available in school at all times for playtime as well as outdoor learning activities.

And most importantly, thank you for your ongoing support this term, we really do appreciate it.

Mrs Murdy Miss Back

