



Curriculum Information

Sycamore, Rowan and Larch

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www.swansfieldpark.northumberland.sch.uk



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 consider how tools changes during the Stone Age in order to make hunting more successful. Next, they will describe the different challenges of survival for man. Children will explore the settlement of Skara Brae and how it shows that Stone Age people were beginning to change how they lived. They will then move onto discovering how life developed from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic period, examining the site of Stonehenge and the answers it gives us about the past. They will also look at how and why hillforts were developed in the Iron Age. Children will explore the roles of the Druids and consider why the evidence we have from the Romans about the Iron Age Druids might be unreliable. 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 that living things produce offspring of the same kind. They will explore how both animals and humans inherit characteristic whilst also understanding that due to 'variation', an offspring is not always identical to its parents. They will move on to learn about 'adaptation' and how plants and animals adapt to suit their environment, identifying how adaptations can result in both advantages and disadvantages. Next, the children will learn about the contributions of ancient Greek scientists to our understanding of 'evolution' by studying and comparing the work of Carl Linnaeus and that of Charles Darwin. From this, they will begin to understand how living things have changed over time and will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding by identifying evidence of evolution from fossil records.

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 peers work.

Computing - Presentation / Word Processing Skills

Children will begin by investigating word processing software: selecting, editing and manipulating text in different ways. They will then move onto inserting images and formatting these images to achieve various effects. Moving on the children will start to investigate layouts and suggest different ways to improve them by editing and manipulating text. Children will then move onto recapping their prior learning of keyboard shortcuts before moving onto understanding the different functions of the spellcheck tool and adding a spelling to the spelling dictionary. The children will then move onto learning how to insert a simple table, adding and deleting rows and formatting the borders within a table. They will move onto being able to change the orientation, size and layout of the page. To finish the children will learn how to choose and link a relevant website to a document, formatting the hyperlink.

Other subjects:

PE: Attacking and Defending with NUF (*Friday*)

PSHE: Jigsaw - Dreams and Goals

French: House and Home

RE: Christianity: Is anything ever eternal?

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



English:

The Highway Man: Narrative poetry

Wolf Brother: Creative writing

Mathematics:

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

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

For specific learning objectives and coverage in English and Maths, please 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 continue to be set online homework tasks within their Google Classroom account. 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 to be set each Monday on www.spellingframe.co.uk and made live for six days. It is important that your child regularly practises their spellings as well as completes two online tests each week.

Punctuation and Grammar: As part of your child's weekly homework, they may sometimes be set a quiz on SPaG.com. As with all homework tasks, the online quiz will be set on a Monday and made live for six days.

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. Mental maths skills will be tested on a weekly basis by class teachers.

Reading: Your child will continue to 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.

We are also currently exploring ways of providing our UKS2 children with opportunities to visit the school library and we hope to allow them to take their selected text home to read with friends and family. Further information to follow.

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.

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

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.

