



Curriculum Information

Sycamore Class, Rowan Class & Larch Class

Produced by:

Miss C. Back, Miss K. Moffet and Mr K. Shotton

www.swansfieldpark.northumberland.sch.uk



Our topic for this 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 will 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 find out about the lives and achievements of early Homo sapiens. The children will find out how Britain's coastline changed during the Mesolithic period. They will investigate the site of Star Carr or Skara Brae 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 use 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. Finding out how iron was mined and used during the Iron Age and how this changed life in Britain. They will 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, as well as how people and technology developed throughout prehistory.

Geography –

The children will begin by locating Bamburgh on digital maps, exploring physical and human geographical features. They will then move on to exploring the changes in the coast line, through a variety of historical materials. Finally, the children will create their own 6-figure reference maps with a key detailing geographical features.

Science- Evolution and Inheritance

The children will begin by learning about traits that are passed from one generation by 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 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 as well as 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 on to blending lines to create shadow and depth. They will finish by evaluating their own and their peers' work.

Computing – Lego WeDo

Children will begin by following instructions to build LEGO® Education WeDo Dancing Birds model and connect it to the software. They will then create an algorithm, testing and debugging the programme to make it work properly. They will then move on to following instructions to build LEGO® Education WeDo Drumming Monkey and connect it to the software, exploring the program blocks to design a new algorithm that makes the monkey play different beats. The children will finish by creating their own algorithm demonstrating their understanding.

Other subjects:

PE – Yoga, bikeability (Yr 5) and rugby

RE - Hinduism: Hindu beliefs and how these affect Hindu lifestyles

PSHE - Keeping Safe and Our Environment

Music - Charanga: Make you feel my love

French – Where you live, directions and places

English: Biography / Autobiography (*The Fossil Hunter* - Shelley Emling)
- Recounts

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.

Additional information:

Homework and Spellings: Specific information about your child's homework and spellings can be found on their class page on the school website (<http://www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk/website>). The class teacher will update this each week with the latest spellings and homework. Your child has been given a spelling record book, please ensure that this is in school every Monday so that they can copy their new spellings for the week.

Planners: Children 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: As winter is not yet over, we ask that all children have a pair of named wellies or outdoor shoes available in school at all times.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, there are games, activities and worksheets for all subjects available to help your child on our virtual learning platform, School360, and some of the best (j2e, IR and Frog Play) can be found in Resources. The BBC also has a range of age-appropriate activities for most areas of the National Curriculum, or children can hone their coding skills on Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>).

