

Literacy – To begin the year children will plan and write their own autobiography to introduce themselves to a new teacher and class as well as think about their own aims for the new school year.

We will then move on to focus on some writing all about the Plague. This will involve writing instructions to cure the Plague and a narrative based around first account experiences of the Plague's effect on the streets of London. After this, we will be writing persuasive letters. The children will imagine they are writing to Oliver Cromwell, who chose to ban activities such as football, Christmas and dancing, and attempt to persuade him to bring their favourite back.

P.E - Children will participate in a variety of invasion games including tag rugby, basketball and hockey. Focus of the sessions will be on tactics during game situations, team work, sportsmanship and game skills.

Dance - Children will learn the basic principles of dance and how to warm up the body safely for dancing. They will then learn some basic traditional Tudor dances and moves before using these as a stimulus to create their own piece of Tudor dance.

Music –

Year 3 and 4: Children will be looking at rhythmic notation using crotchets, quavers and minims, clapping and writing simple rhythm patterns. We will be learning about the families of musical instruments and comparing modern instruments to those used in Tudor times.

Year 5 and 6: Children will be learning to read, clap and notate 4 beat rhythms in order to compose their own fanfare, as well as learning about Tudor instruments and music.

PSHCE – During the first half of term there will be a whole school focus on “Golden Rules”. These will be reinforced in assemblies and PSHCE lessons.

Science – Y3 – Animals including humans: Children will learn that animals and humans need food to provide nutrition because they cannot produce their own food. The children will understand how the skeleton and muscles of the body support, protect and help animals and humans move.

Y4 – States of Matter: The children will learn the differences between solids, liquids and gases and identify their properties. They will learn about melting, freezing and evaporating. The children will also be learning about the water cycle.

Y5 – Properties and changes of material: The children will look at separating, filtering, sieving and evaporating solids, liquids and gases. The children will learn about reversible changes of state such as dissolving and irreversible changes such as burning. Children will understand the properties of everyday materials and their uses.

Y6 – Light: The children will recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines and explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. They will use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them. They will also investigate what happens when light travels through water or prisms and experiment with using different coloured filters to find out how this affects the colours we see.

Kings and Queens Cycle 3 – Autumn Part 1

Computing – This term we are going to begin by focusing on internet safety to ensure all of the juniors can confidently and safely work online. Children will learn about how the internet, email and blogging provide opportunities for world-wide communication. They will look at the benefits and drawbacks of sharing information online. Children will then be able to use the software ‘weebly’ to create their own website and blog about life at Handcross School.

History – In this topic we will be looking at prominent Kings and Queens from 1485 (the battle of Bosworth) through to the Victorians. The children will be learning about these exciting and extravagant monarchs and their effect on the people and society of Britain.

During this topic the children will look at:

- The end of the war of the roses.
- Henry VIII and his wives.
- King Edward and Jane Seymore
- Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth and Mary Queen of scots.
- Oliver Cromwell

Art – The children will study various portraits of monarchs and explore what we can learn about them from their portraits by looking at the colour, clothing, expression and objects presented in the paintings. The children will learn about how to produce tone, shade and texture with pencils. In addition, they will explore a range of Tudor patterns. They will then produce their own portrait of a Tudor monarch using a grid to create an accurate copy. This will culminate on a trip to The National Portrait Gallery.

Literacy - Literacy this half term will be based around the theme of Victorian children. The children will be using the following stimuli: 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty, 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens and our Rainbow Theatre 'Victorian Children' workshop.
We will be covering the following writing genres: first person narrative, formal letters and diary writing.
The children will also continue to learn and embed aspects of the grammar curriculum for their year group.

History – In this topic we will be looking at the Industrial revolution leading into the Victorian era. We will start by looking at pivotal inventors and inventions such as lavatories, railways, hot air balloons and telephones. We will also look at factories, schools and workhouses during this time period through our Literacy work.

DT- In DT we will be looking at key inventors and inventions throughout History and how events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world. We will also be visiting the science museum in London to support this learning. The children will then focus on the use and impact of electricity since it was invented. Year 3 and 4 will design and produce a lantern using electrical components and Year 5 and 6 will design and make a fairground ride using motors and pulleys.

P.E - Children will participate in a variety of invasion games including tag rugby, basketball and hockey. Focus of the sessions will be on tactics during game situations, team work, sportsmanship and game skills.

Gymnastics:
The children will learn all about travelling in gymnastics. They will focus on moving in pathways at different levels, directions and speeds

Science – Y3 – Rocks and Soils - Compare and group together different kind of rocks based on appearance and physical properties, describe how fossils are formed, recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Y4 – Electricity - Identify common appliances that run on electricity, conduct circuits and name parts of a circuit, know that circuits have to be complete to work, learn about switches and how they work and recognise conductors and insulators.

Y5 – Properties and changes of material - Children will look at separating, filtering, sieving and evaporating solids, liquids and gases. The children will learn about reversible changes of state such as dissolving and irreversible changes such as burning. Children will understand the properties of everyday materials and their uses.

Y6 – Electricity - associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit; compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches; use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

Incredible Inventions! Cycle 3 - Autumn Term 2

PSHCE –Our focus this half term is belonging to a community. This will be reinforced in assemblies and PSHCE lessons.

French – Year 3 and 4: The children will learn how to ask and answer questions about their age. They will also work on classroom instructions, numbers and Christmas/Winter.

Year 5 and 6: The children will learn about items of clothing, how to give opinions and Christmas/Winter.

RE- Children will be learning about a range of religious views on caring for one another and the world we live in. They will discuss the similarities and differences between them and use their own ideas to create guidelines for caring for each other and the world.

Music – All classes will listen to & learn about different styles of music in Victorian times and sing songs from 'Oliver!' In addition, each class will undertake the following:

Year 3 and 4: Each child will learn to play their own part of 'Hammerstrokes' on the glockenspiel in order to perform in time with the class.

Year 5: Foxes will each learn to play one part of a piece of music on the glockenspiels and then work as part of a group to perform it for the class, keeping in time with each other.

Year 6: As Kestrels learnt about simple rhythmic notation last half term, they will use that knowledge to read music and learn to play different pieces on the glockenspiels in order to perform a longer piece in Rondo Form.

Science –

Y3 – Rocks and Soils - Compare and group together different kind of rocks based on appearance and physical properties, describe how fossils are formed, recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Y4 – Electricity - identify common appliances that run on electricity, conduct circuits and name parts of a circuit, know that circuits have to be complete to work, learn about switches and how they work and recognise conductors and insulators.

Y5 – Earth and Space – describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun, describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth, describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies, use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

Y6 – Electricity - associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit, compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches and use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

Literacy – We will be using dragons as an exciting stimulus for our Literacy this half term. The children will: become 'Dragonologists' by exploring different breeds of dragon and writing an information page about their own dragon; write instructions on various aspects of dragon training; explore metaphorical language through dragon poetry and write short narratives about dragons.

DT – 'Let's Go Fly a Kite!'

This unit gives children opportunities to develop their understanding of frame structures and how they can be strengthened and stiffened. They will gain knowledge and understanding about the parts and shapes of kites. This will help them when designing and making their own kite. Finally, children will test and evaluate their kites against design criteria they have created. This unit will link to our Literacy work on dragons, with a dragon theme for their kites and will culminate in a 'dragon flying competition'.

P.E – Games - The children will be learning about and developing their skills in hockey.

Dance - Children will create a group piece of dance based on the movements of mountain climbers.

Mountain High

Cycle 3 - Spring Term 1

Geography – Children will find out about the major mountains in the UK and the rest of the world. They will find out the different ways in which mountains have been formed, and how different features of mountain ranges have been shaped over time. Children will have the opportunity to consider what the weather is like in a mountainous environment and to evaluate the impact that tourism has on a mountainous region.

RE- Pupils will be learning about different types of pilgrimage. They will learn to make some connections between Hajj for Muslims and pilgrimage to Lourdes, Iona or 'the Holy Land' for Christians, describing the motives people have for making spiritual journeys.

PSHE – Our theme for assemblies and circle time this half term is 'Relationships'. This will include family, friendship and anti-bullying.

Music

- Y3 will learn how we write pitch in music in order to read & play 3 note melodies

- Y4 will follow on from their learning about pitch & notation as Badgers by adding more notes of scale in order to learn to read & play 5 note melodies.

- Y5&6 will investigate pitch. They will learn how to read treble notation on the staff in order to play simple melodies.

Maths – Please see year group long term overviews on our website.

Science

Y3 – Plants – identify different parts of plants and their functions; explore what plants need to survive and how this differs between plants; know how water is transported within plants, exploring the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants including pollination; understand seed formation and seed dispersal.

Y4 – States of Matter- Compare and group materials together according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled; measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius; identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Y5 – Forces – Explain that unsupported objects fall towards the earth because of the force of gravity acting between the earth and falling object; identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces; recognise that some mechanisms including levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Y6 –Animals Including Humans- identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood; recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function; describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

Literacy – The children will learn how to write news reports, and short stories using our ‘Extreme Earth’ topic as a stimulus. In preparation for our visit from Abi Elphinstone, children will become familiar with and analyse a range of her books and identify how authors build suspense and tension. They will experiment with this as authors themselves by writing short extracts which build excitement and tension. Please see the National Curriculum for specific grammar objectives taught in each year group.

Music

Badgers will learn about the elements of music and think about how to use pitch, duration, dynamics & tempo in order to create a successful composition about Earthquakes and Volcanoes.

Roe Deer will be listening to famous tone poems and exploring how composers can tell a story through music. Roe Deer will then use this inspiration in order to compose their own piece and tell a story about earthquake or volcanoes.

Foxes & Kestrels will be learning to recognise music with 3 beats by listening to famous Waltzes, singing Edelweiss, playing simple melodies and composing and performing their own Waltz.

Extreme Earth

Cycle 3 – Spring 2

Art:

Children will be learning about the artist Cezanne with a focus on mountain and volcano landscapes. They will develop painting skills including knowledge of colour, texture, brush work and the use of alternative painting tools. They will also explore perspective and shape arrangement. Using these skills, they will compose their own mountain or volcano landscape painting.

RE- Pupils will be learning about different types of pilgrimage. They will learn to make some connections between Hajj for Muslims and pilgrimage to Lourdes, Iona or ‘the Holy Land’ for Christians, describing the motives people have for making spiritual journeys.

P.E – Children will be practising the skills and rules of football. They will focus on passing, dribbling, safe tackling and effective goal scoring and keeping. As well as this they will develop team work and sportsmanship skills.

In gym children will be focusing on flight; they will look at how to take off and land safely and with control. Children will then move on to using apparatus to aid their flight and learn how to control their landing points on the apparatus and the floor.

Computing-

In this unit of work, children will be researching active volcanoes across the world using online databases. They will then present their data using data presentation software. Children will then produce a presentation explaining and evaluating the data they have collected. Throughout this unit children will focus on, discuss and evaluate which software would be best for completing their task.

Geography- Children will learn how volcanoes are formed and how earthquakes occur. This will be taught through our Science Dome show. They will also learn about the impact of these and other natural disasters on humans through their report writing.

Science – Y3 – Forces and Magnets – Compare how things move on different surfaces; notice that some forces need contact between 2 objects but magnetic forces can act at a distance; observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others; compare and group together a variety of every day materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet and identify some magnetic materials; describe magnets as having 2 poles; predict whether 2 magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

Y4 – Living things and their habitats - Identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment and recognise that environments can change which can sometimes pose dangers to living things; construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Y5 – Living things and their habitats – Describe the difference in life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian and a bird; describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Y6 – Animals Including Humans- identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood; recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function; describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

Literacy

The learning in literacy this term will be focussed around Africa. The children will explore a variety of texts and explore a wide range of genres, including: a non-fiction commentary based on David Attenborough's 'Africa'; narrative writing on 'The Village that Vanished'; suspense writing; non-fiction fact files on African animals and report writing.

P.E

The children will be focussing on 'Racquet Games' including tennis, badminton and volleyball. Children will build up the basic skills for each and then play inter-house competitions utilising what they have learnt about each sport.

Dance

Children will be learning the basics of traditional African dance, including isolation, rhythm, acting through dance and general style and technique. We will then use these skills to inspire dances for our end of year performance.

Amazing Africa

Cycle 3 – Summer 1

Geography

Children will learn about different aspects of life in Africa including climate, landscapes, people, culture and animals. They will locate Africa on maps; describe the physical and human features of a range of African countries and compare them using Talk for Learning skills in order to develop an understanding of the incredible diversity of this continent. We will help children to realise the huge variety of cultures and settlements in Africa, including cities, villages and tribes and encourage them to challenge stereotypes or preconceptions they may have.

DT (cooking)

The children will have the chance to discover the exciting and diverse choice of food available around the world. The first part of the unit provides an opportunity for children to learn where in the world a variety of ingredients flourish. They will also build on their understanding of different food groups. Children will taste different foods and spices which will help them make an informed decision when designing and cooking their own traditional dish from West Africa (Jollof Rice).

Music

Pupils will be learning to play the drums using the techniques of bass, tone & slap. We will follow call & response rhythms and have the opportunity to lead the class as 'master drummer'. Pupils will also create their own rhythms and perform rhythmic improvisations within a set structure.

Science – Y3 – Light - Recognise that we need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light; notice that light is reflected from surfaces; recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous; understand how shadows are formed and find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.

Y4 –Sound-Pupils will be taught to identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating; recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear; find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it; find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it and recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

Y5 – Living things and their habitats – Describe the difference in life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian and a bird; describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Y6 – Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago; recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents; identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

Literacy

Children will use 'The Lion King' as a stimulus for writing dialogue integrated in narrative and describing settings and character. They will also write formal letters from endangered animals to humans using features of persuasive writing.

Computing

In this unit, children will focus on coding hardware. They will programme 'InO-Bots' using iPads. Children will be able to identify different inputs and outputs and how they help to form effective algorithms. Children will then use these skills to solve basic problems in the form of obstacles for their robot. This will culminate in children designing their own adventure map to be solved by coding an InO-Bot.

P.E

The children will be focussing on Athletics this half term. They will develop their throwing, running and jumping abilities and improve their skills in order to achieve a personal best.

Amazing Africa

Cycle 3 - Summer Term 2

History – The Kingdom of Benin

Through examining artefacts, asking questions, research and role play, the children will learn about the Kingdom of Benin (an ancient West African civilisation). They will learn where the Kingdom of Benin sits on a timeline compared with key British historical events and how aspects of life changed in that time. They will compare different sources and develop an understanding of how historical conclusions are open to interpretation.

Dance

Children will use the skills learnt last half term to learn dances for our end of year performance.

PSHE

The theme for assemblies and circle time this half term is 'Diversity'.

Art – African Masks

Children will develop an understanding of 'masks' and their uses / purpose. They will analyse a range of African masks from different time periods and develop an understanding of the symbolism and meaning behind the designs. They will experiment with their own ideas in their sketchbooks based on what they find out and use these to inform decisions about their own mask design. The children will make their masks with paper maché, card, accessories and paint using cutting and joining techniques to attach the features.

Music

Children will be learning and rehearsing songs in preparation for our school production. They will be working on vocal techniques, pitch and dynamics as well as simple harmonies.