

Curriculum subjects

The following is intended to provide parents with a brief outline of the curriculum your child will be following this half-term. If you have any concerns over aspects of work or would like to speak to us at any time please feel welcome to contact me. We are continuing with our integrated topic "Road Trip", a journey of learning travelling through the Americas.

English

Our learning in English is centred on the Mayan civilisation. The children will choose different text types to write depending on the purpose they are writing for, with particular attention this half term on discussion and persuasive writing.

Our grammar and punctuation focus will have a variety of elements:

- Consolidating the use of apostrophes of possession.
- Learning how to convert nouns and adjectives into verbs using the suffixes: ate, ise and ify.
- Continue using relative pronouns and relative clauses to add detail, beginning with 'who', 'which', 'where', 'when', 'whose' and 'that'.

Spelling will include Year 5 key spellings as part of their homework and studying words with the following endings: cious, tious, cial, tial. In addition we will continue developing our dictionary skills and learning how to use the hyphen.

Reading continues to be an essential part of children's learning and they will take part in a Readers Workshop (Monday-Friday) which also involves targeted Guided Reading sessions. Please remember that every child is expected to read for 30 minutes each evening and this year complete 5 entries in their reading records each week. I would like the children to continue developing their comments using the sentence starters in their reading records. We do encourage children to be using the Lexia programme on a regular basis at home as it supports both fluency and comprehension in reading as well as spelling within writing.

Mathematics

Each unit of maths learning has an element of place value and problem solving.

Throughout the term we will continue to consolidate our arithmetic skills.

Our first unit of work will be

- Statistics, reading, interpreting and solving problems using line graphs and two way tables.
- Multiplication and division, multiplying and dividing numbers up to 4 digits by a one or two digit number. Recognising and using square and cube numbers. Solving problems involving multiplication, division, addition and subtraction.

Science

Our science will be integrated into our topic. The main knowledge focus will be comparing different life cycles of both plants and animals in the biomes we encounter as we journey through Central America.

History

On our topic journey, we will be exploring the Mayan civilisation, developing our history skills as we discover and compare; where they lived, everyday lives, their beliefs in contrast to Anglo-Saxon England. We will also look at the demise of the Mayan civilisation.

Geography

In this strand of our "Road Trip" we will focus our study on the biomes of Central America. We will be studying the effects of deforestation on the environment and how that impacts on the physical and human geography.

Computing

We will be learning how to write simple programs and create games using software called *Scratch*. The children will complete their game using a snail trail and create a simple quiz.

Religious Education

Our unit this half term will focus on Christianity. We will be considering the question, *Was Jesus the Messiah?* The children will look at biblical evidence and other articles to develop their discussions.

Physical Education

The children will focus on building the skill of balance and its use in different games. We will also be concentrating on team building through *Real PE* activities.

Design Technology/Art

Our artwork will link with our topic on the Mayan civilisation, looking at the type of artwork and architecture they created. We will be using clay to create Mayan pots and the children will get the opportunity to make Mayan masks. The children will also be cooking a savoury chocolate sauce as part of our Mayan theme.

French - with Mrs Donald

This half term, children will learn about what they wear to school and what they eat at school. They will learn about "er" verbs by using *porter* (to wear) and *manger* (to eat). They will continue to express their opinion and make complex sentences using nouns, adjectives and conjunctions.

Music - with Mrs Cockroft

This half term the class will be learning about how tempo can be used for expressive effect in music and they will be continuing to work on duration (developing the children's understanding of notation in music and in relation to more complex rhythms). In groups, the class will use notation and tempo to compose a short piece of Christmas music for performing/recording in class.

The class will also be refining their performance of the song - "Chocolate Molinillo" and also learning Carols for the Christmas Carol Service.

Other Information

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and then collected in on Wednesday. Homework task-sheets will be put into the children's homework books when homework is set and work will be completed in their books and handed in. It is expected that homework will be completed neatly and that due care and attention will be paid to presentation. Homework is normally a culmination of class work or a consolidation of previous work for revision purposes. It can also serve the purpose of preparing children for a future lesson.

Core Learning Values

We are continuing to develop the skills we need to be independent, work together effectively, apply critical and creative thinking to our learning, and reflect on our learning so far.

PE kit

Your child will need a PE kit on Monday and Friday although occasionally this may be adapted if needed. Please ensure that any inhalers are also brought into school if your child suffers from asthma. A note is always required if your child cannot take part in a PE lesson.

Dates for the diary.

3rd November 2017 - School Disco

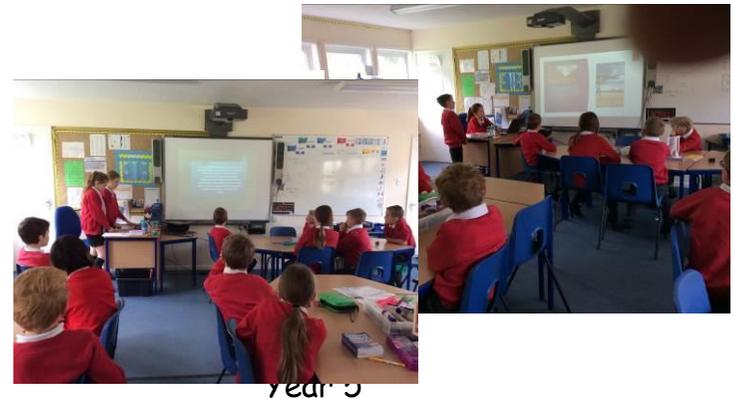
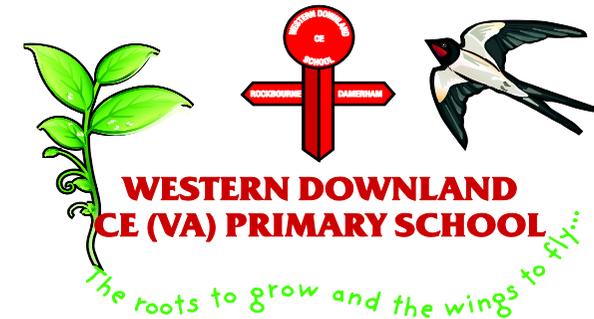
24th November - Children in Need fundraising day

1st December - Christmas Fair

13th December 2017 - Christmas Services (afternoon & evening)

18th December - End of topic museum

21st December 2017 - Last day of Autumn term



Curriculum Newsletter
Autumn Term 2 2017

Thematic Enquiry- The Mayan Civilisation

Miss Ruth O'Brien