

Class 4 Newsletter Spring Term

So that you feel clear about the teaching and learning intentions for the Spring Term 2017 please enjoy reading this overview. If you have any skills, resources or experiences that you could share with us on this topic, we would love for you to share them with us...

This term the children will undertake a Humanities based project that incorporates art and the core subject areas too.

Within Humanities they will develop their locational knowledge of the Caribbean, reading maps and assessing the neighbouring continents of North and South America; including Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula, home of the Ancient Maya Civilisation. Place knowledge will allow them to draw comparisons with the UK. Physical geography will focus on the landscape of the area, including how the islands were formed through volcanic activity, plus the rivers, mountains, beaches and salt flats that make each island unique. Human geography will focus on settlement, economics, trade and food. Throughout, map work will feature; in particular six figure grid referencing using various Ordnance Survey maps of the UK.

Historical knowledge will be gained by learning about a non-European society; The Mayan Civilisation has been chosen due to its closeness to the Caribbean. The UK has strong links with certain islands and these will be mapped out on a timeline, showing why such ties exist. Profiles of prominent local people will enable a timeline of achievement to be created.

Within the Science aspect they will discover and investigate the important properties of matter, with focussed tasks exploring their physical states, their density, their mass, solubility etc. Chemical reactions between substances, the kind that most people experience in their everyday life, will be looked at, with a nod to the famous chemists, Marie Curie and Louis Pasteur who did wonders for the medical world!

Numeracy will link in with position and direction, using compass points and co-ordinates. Our work on fractions, decimals and percentages will continue and be linked to geography, in particular land use, population figures and economics.

Artistically, the children will use appliqué, creating Caribbean Cushions that reflect local be taught sewing skills and embroidery techniques.

Literacy will focus on non-chronological writing, with the children writing leaflets or tourist guides. This will move to discussion genre and a debate will be held- the subject is yet to be chosen. Caribbean stories will be read and shared, as will tales from the Americas and Mexico. PSHE will look at citizenship and our communities.

Kind regards, Claire Johnstone

Homework:

For homework, in line with our recent consultation, the whole school will be following the same format focusing on two key strands: READING book and a HOMEWORK book.

We would like to see reading happen as regularly as possible and homework will be sent on FRIDAY, to be returned the following WEDNESDAY.

Any task set should last approximately 20 minutes per subject area.

Messages:

P.E will take place on Wednesday and Friday.

Please ensure that your child has a labelled kit that can be kept in school.

They will sometimes need some warm kit for outdoor weather.