

PE

Athletics

We will be practicing our running, jumping and skipping, helping us to get ready for Sports Day, which is coming up in a couple of weeks. There will be lots of sports going on, so we will need PE kit every day.

Computing

We will continue to develop our ability to use the school laptops, logging in, opening apps and saving files. Learning where all the keys are will be a key task, and we'll use *Dance Mat Typing* to help us.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



AT THE SEASIDE!

DORMICE & HEDGEHOGS - SUMMER 2026

Science

Materials

We will continue to investigate the properties of different materials, sorting them in a variety of ways and designing our own tests to find out how suitable they are for different jobs. We will think about the reasons why certain materials are used for specific purposes and suggest suitable alternatives that could be used for everyday tasks.

The Arts

We will be combining our history and science topics to help us to construct model beach huts. We will investigate the traditional shape and design of these huts, and will then learn to measure, saw and join wood carefully to construct our own. Finally, we will decorate our huts, turning them into the perfect place to spend a day at the beach!

Maths

In Hedgehogs, we will be building our understanding of fractions over the next few weeks. We will learn to find halves, quarters and thirds of shapes and amounts, doing lots of practical work to help us to understand what a quarter or a third 'looks like' and to build the link between fractions and division.

In Dormice, meanwhile, we will be focussing on multiplication and division. We will do lots of practical grouping in order to make links between multiplication and repeated addition (4×5 is the same as $5 + 5 + 5 + 5$) and between division and sharing. We will then finish off by learning to tell the time to the nearest half-hour.

Humanities

In our geography lessons, we will be learning about seaside environments. We will discuss what people do when they go on seaside holidays and learn about natural and man-made features that we find in these places. We will then choose a specific seaside resort to investigate further (selected based on our own experiences) and compare this town with life in Stevenage.

In history, meanwhile, we will explore seaside holidays from the past and discover how they have changed over the years. We will use photos, video clips and first-hand accounts to support our learning, and will use all of this to discuss how seaside environments have changed.

English

Our next English topic is built around the story *Traction Man*, by Mini Grey. We will begin by exploring the text, writing questions to the author, summarising the plot in our own words and drawing labelled diagrams of the heroes and villains. We will develop our use of descriptive writing by drafting our own character descriptions, before writing superhero stories of our own.

After that, our final topic of the year will look at poetry. We will focus on the *Belonging Street Poems* by Mandy Coe, looking at the poet's language and punctuation choices, and then using these to inspire our own work. Once we have written and edited our own poems, we will finish by recording them for a class audio collection.

PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- Starting to learn where all the keys live on a keyboard is really useful - we'll be using the BBC's *Dance Mat Typing* in school, and you can practice at home at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3c6tfr

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



AT THE SEASIDE!

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Science

- We will be learning about the properties of materials and the reasons why different things are made from different materials, so try going on a materials hunt when you're out and about - how many things can we spot that are made from plastic? Why do you think they chose to use that material? What other material could be used instead?

The Arts

Have a go at creating your own seaside-inspired artwork at home. The following sites have lots of ideas to get you started:

www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/

www.accessart.org.uk/visual-arts-planning-the-seaside/

www.nurturestore.co.uk/seaside-crafts-kids/

Maths

- Cut pizzas into fractions - how can we cut it so that all four of us get an equal sized piece? What do we call this fraction?
- Share out food together - can we split this cake into thirds or find half of these sweets? Try different ways of sharing - cutting into portions, counting out an equal number for each person or splitting things into groups - which method makes the most sense for whatever you're trying to do?
- When making drinks, practice filling cups half or three-quarters full, helping your child to learn what these words mean, and which fractions are bigger than others.

Humanities

- Share stories, pictures, postcards and mementos from seaside trips in the past. What things did you do at the seaside? Why did you go to that particular place? If you've been to the seaside in different countries, think about what is similar and different about all these places.
- It would be great if older members of the family could share their memories of the seaside from when they were younger - how is it similar or different today to how it was fifty years ago? And, if the chance comes up, a family day out at the seaside would definitely help us to learn more about this topic - we'd love to see any photos or goodies that you bring back!

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Our aim is to turn all our children into fluent readers, so they should be able to read the books they're bringing home with speed, accuracy and confidence.
- We continue to use the Read Write Inc scheme for our daily phonics sessions, and there's guidance on supporting at home available at: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/
- You can also find advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf