

PE

We will be developing our coordination, agility and fitness through cricket and athletics this term. In cricket we will focus on our ability to bowl accurately, and in athletics we will develop our ability to jump, run and throw.

Computing

Building on what we've already learnt this year, we will continue to develop our programming skills, using the Scratch platform (and logical thinking). Using ready-made 'blocks' of code and *if*, *or* and *forever* loops we will create interactive games.

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

Science

Forces and Magnets

We will be exploring different types of forces, including pushes, pulls, gravity and friction, and thinking about the way that these affect the way that objects move in different situations. We will design and carry out fair tests to see which materials create the most friction, and to discover which materials stick to magnets. We will also investigate different ways in which we can measure forces.

The Arts

In DT, we will be learning to use the power of air to make things move! We will discover how to build pneumatic systems, where air is pumped through tubes in order to make something move. We will then incorporate this idea into toy and mascot designs, so that rockets take off, players kick balls or characters can leap out of a box!

Maths

We'll be concentrating on multiplication and division first, using practical resources and the idea of equal groups, sharing and arrays to support our calculations. This will then progress into the use of 'formal' methods for short multiplication and division. After that, we will be shifting our attention to time, learning how days, weeks, months and years are related, and then beginning to calculate time intervals. We will also develop our ability to tell the time, aiming to all be able to read analogue clocks to the nearest minute. Finally, we will return to place value, using our understanding of number to quickly multiply and divide by 10 and then being introduced to the concept of decimals.

Humanities

History : Stone Age to Iron Age
We will continue to explore the technological changes that occurred across the Bronze and Iron Ages, which (slowly) changed ways of life and introduced new clothes, homes, weapons and jobs. All of this will help us to make the most of our trip to Celtic Harmony Camp in June, when we'll get to experience a taste of Iron Age life!

Geography : Fabulous France!

We will begin by locating France on a variety of maps, atlases and globes, and will use this understanding to identify reasons why France is important to the UK. We will use maps, photos and videos to explore a range of environments and climate zones within the country, and will compare life in France with that in the UK.

English

Our next topic will see us returning to report writing, using *A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals* by Claire Grace as our core text. We will compare different reports, thinking about the way they are organised and the way adverbials are used to link ideas together. We will then write our own reports, describing a celebration that is important to us.

After that, our final story writing unit of the year will be based around *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We will develop our use of dialogue, conjunctions and paragraphs to extend and organise stories, and will then combine all of these features to draft, edit and present a science-fiction story of our own.

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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

- You can have a go at coding in Scratch by heading to scratch.mit.edu or downloading the Scratch app. There are loads and loads of tutorials, ideas and examples of other people's work available on the Scratch site.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Investigate what magnets stick to - fridge magnets work fine, and you can investigate lots of different materials around the house. Try different metals and help your child discover that magnets only stick to some of them (mostly iron and steel).
- There are lessons to support our science topic available at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znmmn39/articles/zhj9r2p

The Arts

You can find out more about pneumatic systems and how they work on the BBC Bitesize site at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zt9b8p3. Alternatively, (if you're feeling super keen), there are really well set-out ideas for models and projects at www.instructables.com/Simple-Pneumatic-Machine/

Maths

So much of what we do in class depends on the recall of tables facts, so it would be brilliant if you could work on these at home. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

Humanities

- Archaeologists have found a surprising amount of relics from the Stone Age and Bronze Age in our local area, and you can find examples in Hitchin museum. Go to their website at www.northhertsmuseum.org to find out more about visiting.
- In geography, we will be learning all about France, so this would be a great opportunity for any family members who have visited the country to share their experiences. What did they see, do, eat and drink? How similar or different was it to the UK? Has anyone seen the Alps, visited the Louvre or been up the Eiffel Tower?
- It was great to see so many of you at our French Café last month, so keep building those language skills together!

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to listen to your child as often as possible.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- Our first writing topic this half-term will see us creating reports about celebrations that are important to us, so it would be really useful if you could discuss these at home - they might be religious festivals, family events or a particularly brilliant birthday!

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