

PE

We will be developing our tennis skills over the next few weeks. We will develop our ability to hit a variety of forehand and backhand shots, and will also learn how to serve, so that we can begin to play full games independently.

Computing

We will be learning to use Excel to present and analyse data. We will use software to create line, bar and pie charts to present data that we have collected, and will begin to use simple formula to perform calculations for us.

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



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English

Our next unit is based around Oscar Wilde's *Stories for Children*. This collection of fairy tales will give us the opportunity to explore the way that authors use different tenses and effective dialogue to create engaging stories. We will also learn how to use colons, semi-colons and dashes to punctuate our own writing. We will then combine all of these skills to create 'twisted fairytales' of our own.

After that, we will be exploring biographies. We will read about the lives of people who survived in difficult and dangerous places, like Ernest Shackleton and Aron Ralston, and develop the use of brackets and adverbials within our own writing. We will then write biographies of our own.

Science

Life-cycles

Our next science topic will see us investigating the life cycles of lots of different living things - from mammals to amphibians to insects to birds. We will identify the different stages that each creature goes through, and explore similarities and differences between them all. This will also link in with our Big Talk sessions in March, helping us to learn about human life-cycles.

The Arts

Linked to our history topic, we will be making Greek-style clay sculptures this term. We will do lots of careful observation and sketching to explore the features of original Greek pieces, and will then develop our ability to shape and join pieces of clay in order to construct our models. We will then paint, decorate and display our finished pieces.

Maths

We will begin the half-term by investigating measures. We will do lots of practical work to secure our understanding of what metres, kilograms, grams, litres and millilitres 'look' and 'feel' like. We will then focus on converting between units, using our knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. Drawing all of this together we will complete this topic by developing our problem solving skills, using jottings, drawings and bar models to support our work. Finally, we will round off the term by exploring percentages. We will start by linking these to our knowledge of fractions and decimals, and then begin to calculate percentages of numbers, measures and amounts.

Humanities

History

We will be continuing our exploration of Ancient Greece, and learning about their Gods, wars, myths, clothes, theatre and governments. We will also be looking carefully at how this civilisation fits into the timeline of periods we already know about, and considering how Greek civilisation influenced those that followed (particularly the Romans), and how we still use Ancient Greek ideas (and words) today. We will also be exploring Greek Gods and myths, which will tie in with our work in English.

RE

We will be exploring the Easter story and investigating the way it is celebrated in different parts of the world.

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

- We're learning to use Excel, but there are lots of other (free) apps for making graphs that you can have a go at using at home, and there are lots of ideas to get you started on the BBC Bitesize site.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Our work on life-cycles is a great excuse to watch some of David Attenborough's fantastic nature documentaries together, a huge number of which are available on the BBC iplayer.
- What 'baby' animals can you see when you're out and about? Which look like small versions of their parents (like ducklings) and which look very different (like tadpoles)?

The Arts

Our Greeks topic is full of opportunities for home art projects - making vases, drawing pictures of Gods or creating costumes and shields. Great places to find ideas include: activityvillage.co.uk/ancient-greece-crafts
mysteriesintime.com/7-ancient-greek-project-ideas-to-try-today/
bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/

Maths

As always, quick recall of tables facts is vital for many of the strategies we use, so it would be brilliant if you could work on this. 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

- In history we are learning about the Ancient Greeks, which provides lots of opportunities for learning beyond the classroom - particularly linked to Greek Myths, which are full of amazing characters. There's lots of video and information to get you started available on BBC Bitesize at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39
- If you're up for a day out, the British Museum has a huge amount to offer, covering not just Greeks but Egyptians, Vikings and loads more besides - and it's free for the whole family to visit.
- In RE, we will be exploring the Easter story, so think about the celebrations and traditions that are important to you and your family at this time of year.

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
- It's World Book Day on 5th March, so keep an eye out for the tokens that will be coming home soon, which you can exchange for a free £1 book at most supermarkets and bookshops. You can find out more about this year's line-up of books at www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/



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