



Spring 1

UKS2 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! We hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. As we begin the new term in January, we are delighted to share an overview of what your children will be learning this half term, as they continue to build on prior knowledge and enjoy a wide range of engaging learning experiences across the curriculum.

Geography: South America



This term in Geography, children will be learning all about South America and Brazil. The unit will start with a strong emphasis on map work and locational knowledge with children also learning how to use longitude and latitude. As well as this, they will learn about the different time zones in the world, and how some countries have different time zones within themselves. Children will also learn about the diverse landscape of Brazil and the different ecosystems and biomes that exist there. They will also study the different climates in Brazil, distinguishing between climate and weather, and draw their own climate graphs from data sets.

Art: Printing

South American artist Beatriz Milhazes will be the inspiration for our South American collages this half term. We will study and evaluate her work before practising some of the techniques needed for our final piece. Vibrant collages will be created. After this, children will experiment creating collagraphs using a range of materials and use them to create prints using ink/paint. Their favourite designs will be printed onto the collage to create their final design.



Science: This term's unit is 'Properties and Changes of Materials'. We will be looking at the properties of solids, liquids and gases before grouping together everyday materials based on their properties. We will be carrying out experiments and enquiries to test which materials are best for certain uses – for example, which materials will make the best insulator of heat. Children will analyse data and plan further follow up experiments from this, refining their evaluation skills in the process.

PE:

For outdoor PE, the children are developing their Sending & Receiving skills using different equipment. For Indoor PE, the children will be working towards a class performance in Dance.

PE days:

Doves: Tuesday and Thursday
Kingfishers: Tuesday and Thursday
Eagles: Tuesday and Thursday

RE:

In RE, we will be answering the question, "Why do Hindus try to be good?". Children will explore religious texts to help to understand the reasons for religious beliefs. There will be a particular focus on the beliefs: Samsara, Karma and Dharma with children understanding how this affects the way that someone might live their life. Towards the end of the unit, we will be learning about Ghandi and the example he sets about how to live.



PSHE:

In PSHE this term we will be learning about 'Living in the Wider World'. This will include the topics of Diversity and Diverse Communities in the UK; Stereotypes, Prejudice; Using Money and the use Social Media.

Computing:

Children will explore physical computing by programming a *Crumble* microcontroller. They will learn how to control lights and motors, using conditions such as "if...then" to make decisions in their programs. By the end of the unit, they will design and build a working fairground carousel, applying their programming skills and understanding of how hardware and software work together.

Music: In Music, we will continue to work with glockenspiels. They will develop their understanding of C, D, E and F and 1, 2 and 4 beat notes and rests on the glockenspiel. In addition to this, they will learn the new note G and use notation skills to play new rhythms on the glockenspiels.



Please ensure your child is always fully prepared for the school day with their school bag, water bottle, reading record & reading book, homework, and anything else they may have been asked to bring in.



Home Learning:

- Reading 10-15 minutes 5 times per week and completion of reading records
- Completion of spelling activity in homework book. (15mins)
- Completion of arithmetic activity in homework book. (15mins)
- Completion of English activity in homework book. (15mins)
- Create one example from the half termly project list



Reading Challenge

5 x= Green; 2/3/4= Yellow; 0/1= Red

Seesaw

Seesaw is an app we use to track your child's learning and progress throughout the year. We will send out additional information on how you can view your children's work as well as how to use this app to share WOW moments from home with us in school



X (Twitter) Pages

Each class has a Twitter page which is updated regularly. You can see all the exciting things we have been getting up to in school and how hard the children are working. Please follow us to keep updated!
@GatesDoves
@GatesKingfishers
@GatesEagles



Attendance

If your child is unwell, please contact school before 8:30am in the morning where possible.

Classroom doors close at 8:50am; children should enter and sign in through the office after this time.

Children arriving after 9:20am will be marked as a 'U' (unauthorised absence) for the morning session in line with local authority procedures.

Last year, school achieved an overall attendance of 95.71% - a 1.15% increase from the previous year and 0.91% above national. Thanks for your support!