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Stratosphere.

The newsletter about learning!
How to help your child really take off!

ACTIVE LEARNING: DOING / THINKING / UNDERSTANDING

What are we learning this term?



A message from Mrs J Waters: Butterfly Class



'Amazing Adventures!'

We are off on an AMAZING ADVENTURE, stopping first in India and exploring the jungle! Then we will follow the interests of the children as they show me what they know already and are keen to learn more about!

We will learn which animals are found in the jungle and animal species native to India. We will read information books and learn the features of a non-fiction text. We will then create our own non-fiction books using 'Talk for Writing'. We will be writing captions, labels and short sentences.

We will find India and England on a world map and discuss ways of travel. We will taste Indian foods and have a go at making Indian snacks. We will look at Rangoli and Mendhi patterns and create our own symmetrical patterns.

The Taj Mahal will be our inspiration for building using a variety of media and materials. We will create and retell our own jungle stories through role-play and small world play. We will also have an Indian restaurant role-play area and practise using money as our maths focus.

In maths we will also explore time using the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' to help us sequence events which happen and the time they happen using o'clock. We will also sequence and order numbers 1-10/20, securely counting 10 objects and beyond.

Our topic will lead to exploring the faith of Hindu's and 'Holi' the festival of colour. In P.E. we will learn a Bollywood dance with a visit from the 'Dance Lady'. We will also practise yoga techniques.

We will learn how to warm-up our voices, play singing games and learn songs connected with India. We will improve our playing skills on unpitched percussion and find out about Indian musical instruments. We will learn about the famous Indian sculptor Ramkinkar Baij and create jungle animals from clay.

Let's get ready to embrace our journey! Where will we go next? What exciting things will we learn along the way? Our 'Amazing Adventures' have only just begun!

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Miss K. Smith: Owl Class



'Incredible India!'

This term our topic is called “Incredible India!” and we will be exploring this topic alongside Woodpecker Class and Butterfly Class. This topic will have a Geography focus. We will find out where India is in relation to the continents, oceans and other countries in the World. We will find out about the climate in this country and what different types of habitats this has created for the people and animals that live there.

This will lead into our Science, where we will be studying tigers and elephants. We are comparing different animals – their diets, habitats, their bodies and life cycles. In English, we will be learning how to create an information text and we will use our knowledge of tigers and elephants to write facts about them. Our author for this topic is Rudyard Kipling, and we will be reading his “Just So” stories and poems.

Our Maths will all be based around the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be using our counting forward and backward skills to support us to solve problems, as well as basing problems in real life by using money. We will be linking our counting steps to multiplication facts.

We are going to look at shapes and symmetry, which links with Art where we will recreate Rangoli and Mehndi patterns. We are going to be sewing and looking at different ways of creating patterned fabric. One of our artists this term is Henri Rousseau and we will study his ‘jungle’ paintings to inspire our own artwork.

In Music, we’ll be improving our singing through fun warm-ups, singing games and seasonal and topic-related songs. We’ll also continue to develop our glockenspiel and unpitched percussion playing and fit our own words to known melodies.



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A message from Miss Robinson: Woodpecker Class 'Intrepid India!'



Happy New Year! This term Woodpeckers will be taking a journey to India. We will be learning about the 'Just So Stories' in English, focussing on *How the Whale got his Throat*. Then, we will plan, draft and write our own story. We will learn more about Rudyard Kipling and his work throughout the term. In Maths we will be briefly revisiting our work on addition and subtraction before moving on to learn about different methods of multiplication and division. We will continue to work on learning our times tables and maths facts.

Geography sees us learning about the human and physical features of India, including different cities and important landmarks. We will spend time developing our map skills and learning about the village Chembakolli. In Science we will learn about different forces and how they work, including learning about magnets and speed. In Computing we will be learning how to create and write emails, we will link this with our topic work by writing emails asking questions we would like to ask about India. In PE we will be improving our gymnastic skills by learning about balance, different ways of travelling and shapes we can make with our bodies.

In D.T we will be becoming chefs and learning how to cook samosas! After sampling some Indian food we will design, plan, make and evaluate our own samosas. We also have some exciting visitors coming in throughout the term to help us learn more about India.

Finally, in Music we'll be learning more about how to improve our singing and playing, through fun warm-ups, singing games and topic-related songs, as well as composing and performing our own music, using glockenspiels and untuned percussion, and learning to read rhythmic notation.



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A message from Mrs Williams & Mrs Bridson: Fox Class 'Ingenious Inventors!'

Our term will start off by learning about one of the most ingenious inventors of all time- Leonardo Da Vinci. We will investigate whether his ideas about human proportions were correct as we test out his theories for 'The Vitruvian Man' and also explore his skills as an artist, as we develop our sketching techniques.

As different elements feature in the development of inventions we will be looking at the properties of a range of materials over the course of the term, carrying out various fair tests to investigate their ability to dissolve, separate and conduct. This will tie in with Computing, in which will learn to insert our scientific results into spreadsheets.

Over the following weeks Fox Class will find out about a range of inventors, particularly Europeans, so we will need to further our understanding of this continent. Our special focus will be Greece, as many inventions and discoveries can be attributed to early Greek Scientists. The cam mechanisms which we will build will be inspired by some of these early ideas and we will also investigate some mathematical principles which are still in use today, together with an emphasis on fractions, multiplication and division.

English takes 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes as its inspiration, looking at the impact of this creation on the surrounding countryside and the people it encounters. We will be using this classic tale as a model for our own stories about incredible inventions.

In RE, we will learn to understand how beliefs and worship practices show commitment to Sikhism and the class will also discover about the life of Jesus, from fleeing to Egypt with Mary and Joseph to meeting his disciples.

Finally, in Music, we'll be exploring how inventions have affected musical compositions and performances, improving our singing through topic related songs, learning more about reading music to play glockenspiels and composing and performing our own pieces about inventions.



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A Message from Miss Crook : Robin Class



'Sporting Heroes'

Usain Bolt, Jessica Ennis-Hill, Serena Williams, David Beckham..... who is your 'sporting hero'?

This term our learning will be based on sport. In English, we will develop our research skills to find out about our favourite sports man or women and write a biography about them.

In February it is the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. We will find out about the different sports played as well as the differences between the Summer and Winter Olympic games. We'll learn about the countries which some of the European Olympians are representing. In Computing, we will develop our coding skills to create a story using Scratch based on Soohorang (a white tiger) and Bandabi (a black bear), the mascots of the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Game. In History, we will find out about the very first Olympians – the Ancient Greeks.

In Art, we will learn about the famous artists/sculptor Leonardo Da Vinci. We will investigate his various drawings of the human body as well as investigating his idea of the 'Vitruvian Man'. We will develop our drawing skills and how to draw people. Finally, we will create our own 'sport in action' drawing. After half term, we will continue to look at 'sport in action' by making a moving model using a CAM mechanism. We will continue to have music with Mrs Aylett, where our learning will be based on the role of music in sport. We'll be looking at the connections as well as composing our own sports-inspired music

Mrs Bridson will continue to teach PE this term (Tuesday & Friday). We will develop our gymnastic skills as well as get ready for the football and netball tournament in later in the term.

In PSHE this term, we will think about what a culture is and which culture we belong to. We will also look at racism and what sport is doing to tackle it. In January, we will take part in a session with the Life Education Centre team thinking about how to lead a healthy life. Also, later in the term it will be Sport Relief and we will find out how the money is used to support children in Africa and the UK.

Other learning this term includes:

- in Science, continuing our learning from space then investigate different materials and how they combine together
- in Mathematics, our learning will focus on fractions, decimals and percentages. Also, we will improve our measuring and geometry skills
- in RE, finding out about how Sikhs show their commitment to God and reflecting on how to show commitment to things that are important to us.

As always, we've got a busy term ahead!



