



Stratosphere.

Edition 61: September 2019

The newsletter about learning! Help your child really take off!

Our commitment to learning is to make it ACTIVE and RELEVANT.

This year we have tweaked the way we organise and plan the curriculum. Teachers in the lower school (Butterfly, Owl and Woodpecker Class) and teachers in the upper school (Fox and Robin Class) are planning similar 'content' but at different age appropriate levels. We have organised the curriculum to be on a 3 year rolling programme. This will be posted on the school web-site very shortly.

What are we learning this term?



A message from Mrs. Waters: Butterfly Class



'Royal Me'

A very big welcome to all the children who have started school in Butterfly Class this term. We have a very special topic to start us off, as we learn about 'Our Queen and Country'!

The most important focus for this term is to ensure that the children are happy and settle into Butterfly Class. We have a range of activities in our indoor and outdoor continuous provision, which the children will access independently through play. The term will begin with learning about Queen Elizabeth II. However, the learning focus will evolve as we follow the children's' interests. We will learn about ourselves, our families, our friends and our school and local environment.

We will learn about the countries, cities and landmarks in the UK, as well as the various flags. In history we will learn about the life of Queen Elizabeth II. In numeracy we will be estimating, counting, reading, recognising and writing numbers. We will learn the names of 2D shapes and their properties.

We will explore mark making through handwriting patterns and music. We will practise writing our names, captions and labels. Using *Talk for Writing*, we will write a letter to The Queen and hope for a reply!

We will explore autumn and winter by amongst other things looking at the animals which hibernate, especially those in our outside learning environment! We will find out what has never lived, is dead, alive or no longer living.

In P.E we will learn to express ourselves through creative dance and practise moving with control and co-ordination whilst using small and large equipment. In ICT we will program Beebots to travel to different landmarks in the UK!

In Music, we will play singing games and learn songs about the seasons and our topic. We'll learn to play glockenspiels and unpitched percussion and create our own music for royal occasions. We will also listen to music about animals, including *The Carnival of Animals*, and make up our own dances to go with them.

We go on frequent 'Welly Walks' using the beautiful village of Stratford-Sub-Castle and the surrounding area to enhance our learning. We also have strong links with St Lawrence's and will meet with Reverend Sarah both at school and at Church.

We are really looking forward to meeting all of the new children starting at Stratford-sub-castle Primary School this year and welcoming back our lovely Year Ones.

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Life in all its fullness**

What are we learning this term?



A message from Miss Smith: Owl Class



'The Queen and I'

During this topic, we will be thinking about ourselves and the Queen – and just how important we all are!

In Geography we will learn about our local environment and where we live, using and developing our map skills. Then we will work our way out and learn about the UK – where we fit in, as well as learning about the capital cities, and locating landmarks of the UK. This will link with our History, where we will be learning all about the life of Queen Elizabeth II. We will look at our own family trees as well and where we live, compared to London and the Queen's many homes around the UK!

Our Science is all about habitats, and which animals and plants live where and why. We will use our geography and science skills to identify different habitats and find out about food chains. We will be exploring autumn and going on mini-beast hunts too! In Maths we will be estimating, counting, reading, recognising and writing numbers. We will be practising our number bonds and using these to practise addition and subtraction using lots of practical methods.

In English, we will use *Talk for Writing* to write a letter to the Queen and hope for a reply! We will learn, through reciting and singing, "London Bridge is Falling Down" and have a go at writing our own versions.

In Computing will be learning all about algorithms and how computers are programmed to work.

The theme for our RE and PSHE is thinking about ourselves, how we fit in to our world and how we can be a friend to others. We will read stories about Jesus being a friend and think about why this isn't always easy, but is about trying our best – just like the rest of our learning!

In Music, we'll learn how to look after our voices and sing seasonal and topic-based songs as well as developing our playing of glockenspiels and unpitched percussion. We'll add our own words to known melodies and create music for royal events. Finally, we'll listen to *The Carnival of Animals* and other animal-inspired pieces.

Welcome back to a very 'royal' term!

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Life in all its fullness

What are we learning this term?



A message from Miss Robinson: Woodpecker Class

My Queen and My Country

Welcome back! This term we will begin by learning about Queen Elizabeth II and how she has impacted our country. We will learn about her family, houses and important events that have happened in her life. We will write letters to The Queen, relive her coronation and celebrate with a royal tea party!

Who goes trip trapping over my bridge? In English, we will be learning the story The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We will role play, explore the characters and practise sentence building before innovating the story to make it our own.

As Mathematicians we will be exploring place value this term. We will discover how to represent numbers in a different way, working up to 3 digit numbers. We will then further our understanding of addition and subtraction by learning about written methods.

In Science we will be learning about living things by exploring the local habitats of animals and what plants grow there. We will investigate food chains and discover how living things function. In Music, we will find out about rhythm, pitch and dynamics in our singing and playing, and learn seasonal and topic-based songs. We will create our own music for Royal celebrations and listen to music about animals, including Carnival of Animals and music written for Royal events.

Geography sees us learning about our local area and where we live. We will develop our map skills in order to learn more about the United Kingdom. We will locate capital cities and important landmarks throughout the UK and learn about the different countries in the Commonwealth. We will be considering seasonal changes by observing how our local environment changes as we go into autumn and then winter.

In R.E we will be considering Jesus as a friend by investigating what a good friend is, how Jesus was a good friend and how Christians can be more like Jesus. In P.S.H.E we will be thinking about how we tackle challenging situations and how to keep ourselves safe. We will consider rewards and consequences and think about how our actions affect those around us.



What are we learning this term?



A message from Mrs. Cook: Fox Class

The Royals and beyond!

We're going back in time this term to look at monarchs, specifically within Tudor times. We will debate whether Henry VIII was a hero or a villain, learn about the monarchy and what life was like during that period.

In English, our whole class read will see us stepping into Narnia. As we read 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by C.S Lewis. Later in the term, this book will serve as a fantastic starting point when we write our own stories based on an imaginary land.

Our first Maths focus will be place value – building on the children's previous knowledge and deepening that through reasoning-based activities. Towards the end of the term we will begin addition and subtraction, looking at formal written methods, estimating answers and using the inverse operation to check answers.

In Science we will begin the term by looking at the wonders of sound, how it is created, how we hear (and how much noise we can make!), we will also look at how the scientific work of Alexander Bell impacts on our world today. Afterwards, we will be studying light, looking at how light travels and how shadows are formed.

In RE, we will first focus on the religion of Islam. We will consider the question: *What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?* We will learn about how prayer, fasting and pilgrimage is important to Muslims.

In Geography, we will find out about Russia. We will learn about the human and physical features of Russia and compare them to the UK. We will investigate its climate across the country and how it affects people who live there.

In Art we are focusing on drawing and painting, we will be creating portraits and looking at the styles of Julian Opie and Picasso in particular. Mrs Richards will be doing Art with us every Tuesday afternoon.

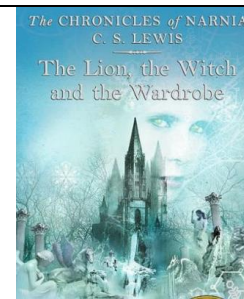
In Music, we will improve our singing by learning seasonal and topic-related songs and develop our reading of notation when playing glockenspiels and unpitched percussion. We will listen to music composed in Tudor times and create our own compositions to record interesting information about Henry VIII.

This term we will develop our winter games starting with Netball and health related fitness.

Key information for this term:

- Our PE will be on a **Thursday and Friday afternoon.**
- Reading records will be checked on a **Monday.**
- Spelling tests will be on a **Friday.**

Scientist	Alexander Bell
Artist	Julian Opie and Picasso
Composer	Various Tudor composers



What are we learning this term?



A Message from Miss Crook: Robin Class

Travellers of the Realms

This term we'll be learning about different realms and kingdoms –investigating our own monarchy; learning about the immense country of Russia and reading about mystical magical lands and beyond!

Was King Henry VIII a hero or a villain? We will learn about the monarchy and trace the royal family tree back to King Henry VII. We will learn about the famous Tudor monarch and what life was like during that period.

In English, we will read about a magical kingdom in J.R.R Tolkien's book '*The Hobbit*'. Later in the term, we will write our own stories based on imaginary lands. We will also read the famous classic poem '*The Highwayman*' and write our own narrative poem.

How far can sound travel? We will find out how sound travels to our ears; how pitch and volume can be changed; and how the scientific work of Alexander Bell impacts on our world today. After half-term, we will move our learning onto light. We will find out how light travels and investigate reflection.

In Music, we'll do warm-ups to protect our voices and sing seasonal and topic-related songs as well as having the opportunity to lead and sing solos. We'll develop our reading and writing of musical notation and create our own compositions for Henry VIII and his court. Finally, we'll listen to music written in Tudor times and, more recently, pieces inspired by Shakespeare.

This term in art we will develop our painting skills and focus on portraits. We will look closely at the artwork of Julian Opie and his modern style.

In Geography, we will find out about wonderful country of Russia. We will learn about the human and physical features of Russia and compare them to the UK. We will investigate its climate, how it differs across the country and how it affects people who live there.

In RE, we will first focus on the religion of Islam. We will investigate the question: *What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?* We will learn about how prayer, fasting and pilgrimage is important to a Muslim. Later in the term, we will focus on Christianity and investigate the question – *Is the Christmas story true?* Also this term, we will be practising skills for a variety of winter sports such as tag-rugby, football and netball. We will also develop our co-ordination and balance skills in gymnastics.

Scientist	Alexander Graham Bell
Artist	Julian Opie
Composer	Various Tudor composers

