



Edition 57: Sept. 2018

Stratosphere.

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

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

What are we learning this term?



A message from Mrs. Waters: Butterfly Class



'Tell me a Tale'

Once upon a time there was a castle, a frog and a dragon. So the tale has begun! A very big welcome to all the children who have started school in Butterfly Class this term.

The most important focus of this term is that the children are happy and settle into Butterfly Class. We will have a range of activities in our indoor and outdoor continuous provision, which the children will access independently through play.

The theme for this term will begin with castles and dragons but will also evolve more as we follow the children's interests. We will learn about ourselves, our families, our friends and our school as well as the local environment. We will learn about Old Sarum and the castle ruins. 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 the text 'Sir Lillypad' for our talking and listening, we will retell the story through drama and innovate our own stories through role-play and small world play. Year Ones will be supported to write their own stories too, whilst also learning to identify nouns, verbs and adjectives.

In art we will learn about the 3D sculpture artist Michelle Reader and create a dragon from junk modelling. We will learn about different types of materials and their properties in order to develop an understanding of using materials for a purpose. 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 places from the story.

We will 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 Wood-Roe both at school and at church.

We are really looking forward to getting to know all of the new children starting at Stratford School this year and welcoming back our lovely Year Ones.



What are we learning this term?

A message from Miss Curzon: Owl Class



'Castle of Adventure!'

Are you ready for an adventure? This term we will venture into a world of castles, knights and dragons. We will be looking after our adopted baby dragons, showing them how to behave in school and reading them lots of stories.

One of the main focuses of our topic will be Science, and we will be learning about sorting and classifying materials. We will investigate everyday materials and discover how suitable they are for different purposes, including building a castle and designing a waterproof jacket for our baby dragons. We will discover how some materials can be changed and learn about the process of recycling. During our art lessons we will use our knowledge of materials to create junk sculptures. We will develop our predicting and reasoning skills through experimentation. This will involve us measuring and recording our observations, just like real scientists!

In English we will be learning how to retell and perform the story '**Sir Lilypad**', which follows the journey of a small frog who longs to be a big, tall knight. Next, we will mix up and adapt the story to create our own, which we will then write and illustrate.

In Mathematics we are focussing on the value of number, ordering, comparing and representing numbers in different ways. We will search for patterns, whilst practising counting forwards and backwards from different numbers. We will use these skills to help us with addition and subtraction and we will link our counting patterns to our times tables.

A topic about castles and knights wouldn't be complete without learning about the history of castles and finding out about those in our local area. In History, we will explore what life was like within a castle and learn more about Old Sarum. In Geography, we will use different ways to view our landscape, including google earth, to inspire us to make our own maps of our local area.

In Music, we'll learn seasonal and topic-based songs, learning how to look after our voices and the best posture for singing. We'll also develop our playing skills and rhythmic knowledge with glockenspiels and unpitched and body percussion, experimenting with different ways to create musical sounds. Finally, we'll make up our own words to fit known melodies and listen to music inspired by traditional tales.

Through our RE, we will explore and discuss the question, 'Is it possible to be kind to everyone all the time?'



Life in all its fullness

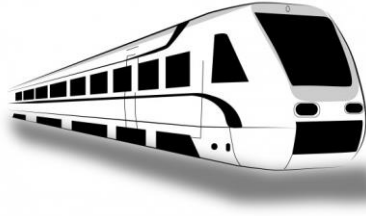
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What are we learning this term?

A message from Miss Robinson: Woodpecker Class



Riding the Railways!



All board!

This term Woodpecker Class will be learning all about railways. We will discover the history of trains, finding out about different types of trains, from steam trains to maglev trains. We will create timelines and facts cards detailing what we have found out and look at the impact of railways on the world.

Using what we have learnt in History, we will be writing non-fiction texts about trains. We will use example texts to guide us, learning about the different features of information texts. We will then look at the book **'Faster, Faster Little Red Train'** before writing our own journey stories in a similar style.

Becoming Artists, we will develop collage pictures in the style of Jeannie Baker, emulating what you may see out of a train window. We will investigate the effect of different colours and material in collage. Science sees us investigating light and dark. We will learn about light, reflections and shadows, discovering different sources of light, and that we need light to see. Woodpeckers will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate reflective material. We will find out how shadows change when the distance between the object and light source changes. Developing our scientific enquiry skills, we will be making observations, predictions and conclusions.

With Mrs Aylett in Music, we'll learn topic-related and seasonal songs and develop our awareness of rhythm, dynamics and note duration in singing and playing. We'll play glockenspiels and unpitched percussion, reading basic notation, compose music to accompany journeys and listen to music about journeys and transport. We will also have Recorder lessons with Mr Walker on Friday mornings. We will be listening to the music of Claude Debussy and considering how we can use music to help us relax.

As a famous engineering scientist, we will learn about Isambard Kingdom Brunel's life work and his impact on the railways.

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| Scientist/ Engineer | Isambard Kingdom Brunel |
| Artist | Jeannie Baker |
| Composer | Claude Debussy |

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What are we learning this term?



A message from Mrs. Cook: Fox Class

Lost in the Rainforest

We're stranded, lost and just a little bit scared. Term 1 sees us exploring the wonderful world of Rainforests – from exciting creatures to journey tales. This term is going to have it all!

In English, we will be using the brilliant text '*The Explorer*' by *Katherine Rundell* to explore the intricacies of language, atmosphere and how authors use a range of techniques to hook readers. Our end goal for this term will be to create detailed descriptions of settings and characters along with recreating parts of our own journey tale. This will link closely with our Geography as we locate rainforests around the world and investigate the different layers that build up a rainforest.

Our first Maths focus will be place value – building on the children's previous knowledge and deepening that through reasoning-based activities. We will be using our Rainforest topic to inform some of our lessons looking at current data figures.

Teeth are weird and wonderful things, aren't they? We will be looking at the make-up of both human and animal teeth and exploring how they have adapted over time to suit their environments and diet. We will then travel through our digestive systems – getting hands on with a range of investigations!

In RE, we will learn about the commitment of Jews to God as well as learning about the importance of Moses to Christians.

As artists, we'll investigate the huge wire spider sculptures of Louise Bourgeois. We'll take inspiration from her work to create our own rainforest sculpture.

In Music, we'll develop our use of dynamics and expression as we learn topic-related and seasonal songs, be encouraged to be singing leaders and continue to learn to read musical notation using glockenspiels. We'll also compose raps to reflect our feelings on being lost in the rainforest and listen to performances of South American music.

This term we will develop our winter games and gymnastic skills with Mrs Bridson. Fox class will have weekly swimming sessions (Friday) at Five Rivers Leisure Session to improve our swimming skills.

- Thursday – PE with Mrs Bridson (Year 4 & 5)
- Friday – Swimming with Mrs Cook and Miss Crook (Year 4&5).

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| Scientist | Elsie Widdowson |
| Artist | Louise Bourgeois |
| Composer | Simon Bolivar (Youth Orchestra of Venezuela) |

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A Message from Miss Crook : Robin Class



'Rainforest Danger'



Pack your binoculars and a rucksack – we're off for a learning adventure in the rainforest! First, we'll find out where rainforests are around the world. In Geography, we'll learn about the Amazon Rainforest, Brazil and much more! This will link to PSHE as we'll be focussing on environmental issues, such as deforestation. After learning about the effects of deforestation in PSHE, our DT learning will be based on using recycled materials.

In Art, we'll investigate the huge wire spider sculptures of Louise Bourgeois. We'll take inspiration from her work to create our own rainforest sculpture. In Music, we'll be learning seasonal and topic-based songs and developing our singing and playing skills as well as continuing to read and write rhythmic and pitch notation when we play glockenspiels. We'll compose background music for a rainforest adventure using chants and body percussion and listen to performances of South American music. We will be learning about the music of The Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela and their conductor Gustavo Dudamel who focus on South American music. We will also learn about the Astor Piazzola, an Argentinian composer.

In English this term, we will read the book, '**Journey to the River Sea**' by **Eva Ibbotson**. The story is based on a young girl's adventure up the River Amazon in 1910. We'll use this book to write our own journey inspired tale.

As part of our South American learning, in science we will learn about the work of Charles Darwin, while he was on the Galapagos Island, and his work about the Theory of Evolution. We will learn about how we inherit characteristics and how animals have adapted to survive in their environments over time. In history, we will find out about the Mayan civilization. We will learn what life was like for the Mayans; including their food, religion and number system.

Also this term, we will be practising our tag-rugby skills and there will be swimming sessions for the Year 5s this term. In RE, we will learn about the commitment of Jews to God as well as learning about the importance of Moses to Christians.

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| Scientist | Charles Darwin |
| Artist | Louise Bourgeois |
| Composer | Astor Piazzola |

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