

Cuckoos and Magpies' Learning Adventure

Terms 3 and 4

Our Guiding Stars (Learning skills)



Stars and Stripes

Where will our adventure take us?

Our Writing Adventure

The children will be looking at the Americas across Term 3 and 4. In Term 3, the children will be looking at writing descriptions for different regions of America and will include geographical vocabulary alongside making interesting descriptions using relative clauses, fronted adverbials and parenthesis.

We will then be looking at features of persuasive writing whilst looking at the civil rights movement in America in the 1950s and 1960s. This will help the children to construct their own persuasive writing or speeches for an issue related to our topic. Following on from looking at the civil rights movement, the children will be looking at the lives of some of the 'Hidden Figures' who helped get man to the moon. After completing research on their chosen figure, the children will write their own accurate biographies.

Our Reading Adventure

Whilst looking at setting descriptions, the children will be introduced to identifying and recognising the importance of authorial word choice. We will be looking at a range of descriptive texts and analysing and give reasons why the author may have chosen these words and their effect on the reader. As we start to look at non-fiction texts, the children will practise summarising key points from a text and analysing the conventions of different types of writing.

Our Adventure Starts...

...with a trip across the North Atlantic Ocean to find out how much we already know about the USA.

An adventure highlight...

...creating a scaled model of the Solar System on the playground.

Our Explosive Ending

....with art collages that are out of this world!

Our Mathematical Adventure

We will begin the term by revisiting methods of multiplication and division. We will look at the formal written methods we use to multiply up to a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number and will learn how to use the bus stop method for division. We will then go onto another fractions unit which will begin by multiplying a fraction by a number, then move on to finding fractions of amounts. This will be followed by decimals and percentages, incorporating prior knowledge from Terms 1&2. We will then move onto Geometry later in Term 4.

Our Computing Adventure

In Term 3 we will be learning how to use spreadsheets. We will look at how to navigate Excel and use this to create our own spreadsheets to plan a party.

In Term 4 we will move onto our coding unit. We will use Purple Mash to gain an understanding of how to create our own simulation. We will begin to understand what a 'function' is and how these work within coding,

Our Scientific Adventure

In Term 3, we will be looking at Living Things and Their Habitats with a focus on some animals found in the Americas. The children will be looking at the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds and making comparisons between these alongside looking at the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

In Term 4, we will be taking a journey into space. We will journey back as far as the Early Humans to see what they understood about space and look at how our understanding of the space has evolved over time. We will complete some practical investigations to help us understand how we get day and night and the journey that moon makes each month.

Our Historical Adventure

After spending the last two terms looking at British history, we will now be taking a trip across the Atlantic Ocean to look at American history. We will focus on America in the 1950s and 1960s and explore the events leading up to the Civil Rights movement. We will gain an understanding of what segregation meant for Americans and look at key figures in this movement, such as Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks. In Term 4, we will look at the Moon landing and how this historical event changed the world. We will focus on the 'Hidden Figures' that made the journey to the moon possible.

Our Geographical Adventure

In Term 3, we will be exploring America and the varied landscapes that it has to offer. We will focus on some of the regions of the Americas and be using the correct geographical terminology to describe them in our writing. We will also be putting our map-reading skills to the test as we locate a range of locations.

Our Creative Adventure (Art and DT)

Whilst looking at the geography of America, we will look at some iconic bridges. As part of our DT learning, we will explore the structure of these bridges and apply these to structures of our own. We will look at a range of materials and see how we can strengthen these materials to make our own, functional bridge.

In Term 4, we will be linking our creative adventure to the historical changes that happened in 1950's and 1960s. We will be looking at how we can use collage and mixed media effectively to create a montage of this period.

Our Musical Adventure

We will continue to follow the Charanga scheme of work in our music lessons. In Term 3 we will explore the song 'Make you feel my love' by Bob Dylan and more famously sung by Adele. We will discover how a song follows a rhythm and how pitches change.

In Term 4 we will revisit the ukulele and build on our prior knowledge from year 4. Our starting point will be to learn notes A, E, C and G. We will create different rhythms with these notes before learning how to play tones and semitones using the fretboard.

Our Sporting Adventure

For Outdoor PE, the children will continue to look at Hockey, including developing a variety of sending and receiving skills and using their skills from the previous term to use simple tactics to maintain possession. In Term 4, the children will be looking at High 5 where they will be looking at refining their marking skills and to use simple patterns of play.

For Indoor PE, the children will be looking at Dance and Gym. In Dance, the children will be looking at the Jive and looking at changing direction of travel and developing their actions and motifs for this style of dance. In Gym, the children will be looking at mirroring their partner and create routines incorporating balance, 'twisted' shapes and 'swinging' gestures.

Our STAR Adventure

In Term 3 and 4 we will be exploring if Christians today can still live by the values of Jesus in the 21st century. The children will make connections between some of Jesus' teachings and the way Christians live today. The children will be encouraged to discuss their own ideas about the importance of values to live by, comparing them to Christian ideas.

Our PSHE will focus on the topics 'Celebrating Difference' and 'Relationships'. We will discuss different types of families and appropriate ways to share our feelings and manage falling out. The children will explore cultural differences and learn what is meant by the terms racism, bullying and disability. We will look at how we may challenge assumptions and gender stereotypes appropriately. We will also look at the importance of staying safe on the internet.