



Kestrel's Newsletter Spring Term 2019

Welcome back, I hope that everybody has had a fantastic Christmas holiday. This term we are going to be learning about the Stone age and the rock cycle.

Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing throughout this spring term.

<p>English</p> 	<p>We are beginning the term by reading the book "The Stone age boy" by Satoshi Kitamura. This book is a mixture of fiction and fact and we will be using it to inform our topic work as well as our writing. We will use the story as inspiration for our imaginative writing based on a time travelling visit to the Stone age. The children will also learn how to write a balanced argument when they consider where they would have preferred to live if they went back in time to 400 AD – Iron age Britain or the Ancient Maya? Also, we will be writing an explanation of the rock cycle and the formation of the different types of rock using the features of non-fiction texts including, sub-headings, glossaries, diagrams.</p> <p>We will also be focusing on using;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• noun phrases to improve our sentences.• time connectives and paragraphs to help structure our writing.• an extensive range of punctuation.
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Each day the children will take part in a daily Mathematics session. During the first half of the term, we will be focusing on developing the efficiency of the formal written methods for addition, subtractions and multiplication. We will then be applying the most appropriate mental or written method to solve a range of sums, problems and puzzles. We will be applying our knowledge of multiplication to solve increasingly difficult division sums and problems.</p> <p>In the second half of the term we will be revisiting the relationship between fractions and decimals. We will be applying our knowledge of decimals to convert measurements into different units e.g. litres to millilitres. We will also revisit telling the time using the 24 hour clock.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>This half term science lessons will focus on rocks. We will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their simple, physical properties. We will be learning about the 3 types of rock and their properties. We will be looking at the conditions at specific stages of the rock cycle and linking these to the rocks structure. In the second half of the term the children will be learning about light.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>In this term's lessons we will continue to focus on using materials from Purple Mash to support our work in computing. We will begin by reviewing and discussing online safety and then we will create a resource to present and share our knowledge to help others understand how to stay safe. We will then be looking at effective searching, locating information and assessing whether it is from a reliable source to help with research for our topic work. After half term the focus will be on coding, we will use 2Code to help design a program. The children will also continue to develop their computer skills in a variety of different ways in other curriculum areas.</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>This half term will have a big history focus as we look back to the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. This will follow on from our work on the Ancient Maya as the children will be able to compare how civilisations in different parts of the world developed. The children will be using timelines to plot the major events in British History and help them to understand how important and recent Prehistoric Britain was. As part of our topic we will recreate a stone age settlement on our school field.</p>

 <p>Art & Design Technology</p>	<p>In art this term we will be recreating art from the stone age in the form of cave paintings using different media; including chalk and charcoal as the Stone age people did. We will also be using digital media to create cave painting pictures. As well as using a mixture of painting and collage to create images of Stonehenge.</p> <p>In the second part of the half term we will be utilising the properties of light to see around corners! By making periscopes.</p>
 <p>Music</p>	<p>In music we are learning following a unit of music looking at the texture or a song. We will be using correct musical terms such as; dynamics, tempo etc. The song we will be looking at is about Bullying and is a mixture of singing and rapping. The children will extend the song by composing their own verses.</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p>PSHE this term will focus on Diversity and Communities looking at different lifestyles and beliefs. They will learn about stereotypes and how to challenge them.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p>	<p>In gymnastics this term we will be focusing on "rotation". The children will explore using different parts of their body and levels to compose their own gymnastics routine with a range of different rotations. They will be encouraged to constructively peer edit each other's performances. Outdoor PE will focus on throwing and catching skills through the first half term and then we will develop further control of the ball on the ground afterwards. In all areas we will be developing control, accuracy and team work skills, building up to playing small sided matches in netball, basketball and football.</p>
<p>Religious Education</p>	<p>The first half term will focus on what it means to belong and how we show commitment to the groups of which we are a member e.g. our family, school, cubs etc. For the second half of the term we will be learning about the Easter story and what it means to Christians.</p>
 <p>MFL</p>	<p>This term the children will continue to learn German. They will talk, read, write and sing in German. There will be a focus on the weather.</p>
<p>Other Information</p>	<p>Home learning will continue to be set regularly. Please look on the Kestels' home Learning page on the school website for details.</p>

And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Amy MacLennan