

Learning Theme: Ancient Footprints / The Stone Age

English	Through the use of interactive whole class stories, we will be focussing on descriptive settings and characterisation. We will have lots of practise writing dialogue and remembering all the rules. Spelling patterns from the year 3 and 4 curriculum will be covered over the year. We will improve our use of the dictionary and gather and extend our vocabulary through thesaurus work.
Maths	We will continue to work on the four main operations and develop different methods of calculation including various mental methods. We will learn to find fractions of shapes, numbers and quantities. We will learn the properties of various 2D and 3D shapes. We will have regular practise reciting our times tables and will speed up the rapid recall of times table facts.
Science	In this unit, children will discover the different types of rocks and how they are formed. They will group and compare rocks based on appearance and other properties. Children will learn how fossils are formed and find out what palaeontologists do. Children will understand how soils are formed and investigate the permeability of different soils.
Computing	Computing work will again begin with sessions on E-safety, highlighting the precautionary measures that need to be taken when online. Children will then learn about data handling through the use of various computer programs and relate these to draw charts and graphs in Maths.
Humanities	Our history topic is The Stone Age. We will study how timelines are used to order periods of history. We will learn about how the past is represented and how historians find out about it. Children will be writing in role as a hunter-gatherer and appreciating what it may have been like for people. Some of this topic will link with art – we will create cave paintings and draw various weapons that people made and used. We find out about how people moved away from a nomadic lifestyle and began to farm the land. We are looking to have a class trip after half term to further our learning.
RE	Over this topic, we will identify the qualities they admire in their heroes/ role models, explain why they admire them and how this may influence their own lives. We will retell stories about an inspirational person explaining why their lives might be considered inspirational. We will begin to describe events in the life of at least one modern day Christian making a link between their actions and the teachings and example of Jesus. We will make links and identify similarities and differences between the different people studied
PE	In addition to the swimming lessons, Phoenix will have gym and dance. We will be creating, developing and performing a dance on the topic of rain. Small groups will use expressive movements to interpret different effects of rain. Outdoor PE will be hockey.
Music	While the year 4s continue with whole class violin lessons, Y3 will continue to listen to a range of music and develop their ability to describe it according to different aspects. We will study the notation used in both the treble and bass clefs. We will identify note names and types, including quaver, crotchet, minim and semibreve. Children will learn to read and perform rhythms at sight by clapping and on pitched instruments. They will create their own melodies to given rhythms and identify the rhythms played by others. Children will be encouraged to perform individually and in small groups to the class and be able to give constructive comments and advice.
Art/DT	We will be studying the French painter Georges Seurat and the pointillist style. We will use a range of media to create pictures using dots including pencils, crayons and paints. We will develop our own

	versions of some well-known paintings.
French	In French this term we will learn about a baby dinosaur who wants to be just like Mum...and Mum is a tyrannosaurus rex! Following an authentic French text, we will extend the story into imagining what it would be like for a dinosaur to come to our school, using and developing the grammar structures previously learnt.
PSHE	We will continue to use circle time to allow and encourage all children to express their thoughts and views on a range of different topics. We will use a range of stories to explore various personal and interpersonal themes, including change, loyalty, decisions and sadness.

Home Learning:

Children are encouraged to be independent learners. Children's own projects and research connected to our learning theme are welcomed and celebrated in class.

English and Maths homework tasks are given out on Thursdays to be returned for marking by Tuesday the following week. Mathletics and Bug Club activities may also be set. Spellings lists will be learnt and tested in class each week but some children may be given additional high frequency words to learn at home. Additional handwriting may also be set.

Regular reading at home is important for all children as even able readers need to practise reading aloud. Please ensure that your child reads to you at least three times each week, and write a brief note in the reading record book when they do. Reading records will be checked to see this happens. Learning to tell the time and using money can all be usefully practised at home.

Knowledge of times tables and number facts is practised regularly in class, but it is beneficial if the children can work on these skills at home too.

PE Kit:

PE is planned to take place on Monday and Fridays. Swimming is on Thursday afternoons (Y3 in Term 3 and Y4 in Term 4). The school timetable, however, is often subject to change so please make sure PE kit for indoor and outdoor lessons is in school every day.

Helping in school:

Help in class or elsewhere around the school is always appreciated. If you have some spare time to hear readers, or to share a skill or hobby, please let me know.

Mr James Osler

Class teacher