

Learning Theme: Out and About / Tudors

Literacy	Our literacy topic for the start of the term is instruction texts. We will identify a range of language and presentation features through examining various examples, and create our own oral and written instruction, using these features. We will continue to work on sentence structure and use of a range of punctuation, including all the rules for speech. We will continue to work on spelling patterns, rules and word lists from the year 4 curriculum.
Maths	We will review written calculation skills and apply them when solving problems. We will consolidate our understanding of the relationship between fractions and decimals, and continue to work on telling the time and solving time problems. We will revisit work on fractions and decimals, applying these skills in different contexts. Times tables will be worked on, but will still need regular practice at home to consolidate this.
Science	Our science topic is living things. The children will be reminded of the characteristics of living things & the basic needs their habitats supply. We will establish why classification of plants & animals is important, and find and classify mini-beasts. Observational drawings and descriptions will be developed. We will read and construct food chains and webs, and recognise how and why environments can change.
ICT	We will continue coding work using Espresso, and the children will further develop their coding skills using Scratch. They will create and manipulate computer sprites around the screen and animate them in different ways. The 'if' command will be explored to create conditional events. Use of variables will be extended to create scoring systems.
Humanities	Our history focus is the Tudors. The Battle of Bosworth is our starting point, acting it out and recounting the main events. We will study the Tudor monarchs and some of their significant actions. The lives of the Tudor rich and poor will be explored. We will discover the methods of punishment that were administered, ways doctors tried to heal the sick, and the food and drink available. We hope to have a visit relating to our topic arranged toward the end of the year.
RE	Children will use religious vocabulary to explain why Moses is important to Jewish people and what they learn from him about God. They will identify and reflect on qualities they admire in others and how they might follow these influences. Through various stories, they will reflect on the actions of Moses and begin to express their own understanding of God. Children will identify rituals and actions of Pesach and explain the meaning of the festival for Jews today. They will express their own ideas about the value of hope and freedom. We will also describe and show understanding of some key beliefs of Judaism, identify key figures in religious stories, study artefacts and festivals and describe how they impact on the life of believers.
PE	In addition to the swimming lessons in T6, Phoenix will have athletics and team games. They will develop their passing, dribbling and shooting skills, as well as consider tactics in larger matches. As the weather improves, we may use the field in preparation for sports day. Children will also learn a Tudor dance and have fun with the Maypole.
Music	We will continue to study the notation used in both the treble and bass clefs. We consolidate their understanding of different notes, 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

	<p>and identify the rhythms played by others.</p> <p>We will also be studying Programme Music and its applications. The children will listen to a range of musical excerpts and compose their own music to create specific effects.</p>
Art/DT	<p>We will relate our artwork to the Tudors. We will be drawing weaponry and battle scenes, focussing on the sketching of figures. Tudor buildings will be discussed and drawn, and the Tudor monarchs' portraits will be created. Towards the end of the term, we will make Tudor houses, incorporating different sticking and fastening techniques.</p>
French	<p>In French this term we will follow the topic 'Out and About' by learning how to talk about the weather, writing weather calligrams and hearing the story The wind and The Sun in French. We will also begin to read aloud some French readers. Weather permitting, we will play some playground games, helping us to practise counting to 100, and using the grammar structures we have learnt, work towards some independent writing and speaking.</p>
PSHE	<p>The children will explore ways of coping with feelings, such as stress and anxiety. Children learn about the effects of smoking and how to make choices for themselves, including being assertive. The concept of risk is discussed and children learn about the importance of making healthy choices.</p>

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

A literacy homework task and mental maths books are given out on Fridays to be returned for marking by Tuesday the following week. Athletics 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 – and you to them – as often as you can. Learning to tell the time and using money can all be usefully practised at home, as can times tables and number facts.

PE Kit:

PE is planned to take place on Mondays and Fridays. However, the school timetable is often subject to change so please make sure both indoor and outdoor PE kit 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