

Lines of Enquiry

Kingfishers:

How can different sea creatures sting other animals?
How is acrylic paint different to water colour paint?
What is an algorithm?

Puffins:

How can we help the environment?
How does paint move?
How do we play the recorder gently and how do we learn a song?



Curriculum Overview for Parents

Year 2 - Spring Term 1

Making a Difference

Science

In Science this half term we will be exploring the ocean habitat, focusing on animals that live there, their suitability, life cycles and food chains. We will also explore the ecological challenges that face the modern world. Children will be learning about environmental issues and simple changes we can make to live more sustainable lives. Children will have the opportunity to apply practical scientific methods and skills

Physical Development

Children will explore and develop basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using apparatus. They will consider the skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling, individually and in combinations to create short sequences of movements. They will be encouraged to experiment with changes of shape, level and direction. Additionally, the children will explore target games, they will develop their understanding of the principles of defending and attacking for target games. They will work to improve the skills of throwing, rolling and striking towards a target and will be encouraged to select and apply an appropriate action in relation to the size of the target and their distance from it. Children will apply their skills individually, in pairs and in small groups beginning to organise and self-manage some activities. They will be encouraged to understand the importance of abiding by rules and will learn how to score points and use simple tactics within this context.

Computing

Children will learn what algorithms are and understand that programs follow unambiguous instructions. They will create and debug simple programs and continue to store and retrieve digital content. There will be a continued focus on e-safety.

Art

In this topic, the children will be introduced to the idea that they can use paint in an intuitive and exploratory way. They will start with an introduction to artists who use paint and colour to create exciting gestural and abstract work. Children will explore primary colours and secondary colours through expressive mark making, connecting colour, mark making and texture (of paint) through abstract work. They will then explore the brush work of two old masters when we focus in on details of paintings to understand how they built the work. Children then go on to draw from a colourful still life, finally making expressive and gestural paintings with acrylic paint.

Maths

In Maths this half term, the children will begin by exploring the topic of money, looking at money notation and the concept of equivalence. They will use coins and notes to make specified amounts, find totals and calculate change. The children will also work practically to investigate the properties of 2D and 3D shape, including identifying 2D shapes on the surface of 3D shapes, comparing and sorting shapes by their properties and identifying lines of symmetry. Finally, children will return to the concepts of addition and subtraction where they will add 3 single digit numbers, explore bridging through ten and regrouping, where appropriate, begin to use the column method for written recording and to apply their knowledge to solve simple two step problems. Children will also continue with daily Mastering Number Programme sessions aimed at strengthening their understanding of number, and fluency with number facts.

Religious Education

Children will be exploring the question 'Who is Muslim and how do they live?', finding out about the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammed and the Five Pillars of Islam, with a focus on Prayer.

Geography

In Geography, the children will continue to learn about our world. The children will use aerial photographs, maps and atlases to develop their mapping skills including using a simple key and directional language. We will also work on increasing their appreciation and understanding of sustainability and conservation.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This PSHE unit is called Dreams and Goals. The children will consolidate their previous learning from unit 1 - they will learn how to set and achieve realistic goals; within this they will explore perseverance and how to identify their individual learning strengths. Our Nurture Principle for this half term is 'it is good to talk.'

Music

In this new unit, the children learn folk songs and create sounds to represent three contrasting landscapes: seaside, countryside and city. We will also be learning how to play the recorder.

English

Daily spelling lessons, handwriting sessions, including introducing some simple joins and our weekly group and whole class reading sessions will continue. Alongside this we will share and explore a quality text with the children. Lots: The Diversity of Life on Earth by Nicola Davies is a non-fiction picture book that conveys the magnificent diversity of life on this planet and offers an introduction to the concept of biodiversity. Through this text, the children will extend their writing repertoire and language skills. They will describe a setting, discuss their views on the important topic of animal extinction, create a diary entry and finally apply their knowledge of living things, extinction, endangered animals and what humans can do to help, to write an effective acrostic poem.