

Our topic for this half term is 'Africa'

We will be focussing the majority of our work around the topic of Africa.

English Fiction

This term, children will have the opportunity to write a recount, create a balanced argument, concerning refugees, and write a persuasive letter to Mr Johnson, sharing their concerns about recent issues. Our English work will be linked to the class book 'The boy at the back of the class' by Onjali Q. Raúf. The book is about friendship, kindness, and adventure that is centred within the refugee crisis. When Ahmet arrives in the narrator's classroom three weeks after the first day of school, he is silent and doesn't join all the kids for play-time.

In guided reading children will be developing our comprehension skills, inference, vocabulary, predicting and summarising from our class book.

Non-Fiction

This term, children will look at non-fiction books concerning Africa. They will identify facts and opinions and look at how non-fiction books are created to help the reader.

Pupils will be studying different elements of SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar.) This will help to raise the level of their writing.

Learning Behaviours

We always aim to focus on praising the positive behaviour demonstrated. We have also introduced a traffic light system to encourage 'green behaviour'. Children who display positive behaviour will remain on green. If inappropriate behaviour is shown, a warning is given. If the child does not make the right choice, their name will be moved to amber. Should the child immediately improve his/her behaviour and follow instructions given by an adult, their name is moved back up to green. Any more serious incidents will result in their name being moved straight to red. Any child who stays on green all week will result in a message sent to parents with the good news.

Maths

This year, children will continue with a 'mastery approach'. They will build a deep understanding of concepts which will enable them to apply their learning to reasoning and problem solving questions. This half term we will be covering: Place value; addition and subtraction and statistics.

Each week, children practise their mental maths and arithmetic skills to increase speed and accuracy using maths meetings for rapid recall.

Scientific and technological understanding

Children will be studying 'Living things and their habitats'. We will be looking at the process of reproduction and the life cycles of plants, mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. The children will explore reproduction in different plants, including different methods of pollination and asexual reproduction. They will recap their work in Year 3 by naming the parts of a flower. They will learn about different types of mammals and their different life cycles, making life cycle wheels to present their learning. Furthermore, the children will find out about Jane Goodall and her work with the now-endangered chimpanzees in Africa.

They will explore metamorphosis in insects and amphibians, comparing their life cycles. Finally, the children will explore the life cycles of birds, and will write and star in their own wildlife documentary comparing the life cycles of different living things

Geography

Children will improve their maps and atlas skills by focussing on the continent of Africa. They will look at different locations such as rivers and mountains and compare the physical and human geography aspects of Africa with Mx-borough.

Art and design

Children will be developing their painting skills by painting in the style of Tilly Willis. They will analyse her work and create their own versions of her work

Jigsaw

Children will look at the topic 'Being in my World' where they will learn about what lies ahead, being apart of Britain, responsibilities and rewards and consequences. They will discuss these topics and play circle time games to develop their speaking, listening and emotive skills.

Religious Education

During our study of Sikhism, children will be learning what determines levels of commitment; what Sikhs give up for their religion and what is the Langar.

Computing

In computing, children will learn about sharing information. They will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They will consider small-scale systems as well as large-scale systems. They will explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. They will also take part in a collaborative online project with other class members and develop their skills in working together online.

*** Reminders ***

PE kits

Each week your child will participate in PE sessions. Children need to bring PE kits to school on Tuesday and Thursday. Children will be improving their exercise and fitness on Tuesday's and throwing, catching and shooting skills (basketball) on Thursday.

The correct PE kit of white t-shirt and black shorts is expected along with appropriate footwear.

All children must have appropriate PE kit and should not wear any jewellery including earrings.

School times

The bell rings at 9:00 when adults will meet the children in the playground (at the marked cone)

The end of the school is 3:15pm. Gates are opened at approximately 3:00pm.

Morning session: 9 am-12:00 pm

Afternoon session 1.00pm-3.15pm

Homework

Homework and spellings are given out to all children on a Friday and will need to be handed in by the following Friday.

Please can your child also read at home at least **three times** a week and make sure they bring their planner each day to school with them—they will be **rewarded with dojo's** for every time they read, which they can spend at the school shop.

School Contact Details

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**Class 8
Curriculum Newsletter**

Autumn Term One

2021

If you need to have a word with your child's teacher please arrange an appointment after school when they will be happy to discuss your questions or concerns.