



Beechwood Primary School



Curriculum Update - Issue 57
Spring Term 2015 - 2nd Half Term

Have you looked at our website?

www.beechwoodschoolruncorn.co.uk

Lent

Penny led an assembly to share some simple ideas with the children as to how they can help others before Easter. We are encouraging the children to raise funds towards Christian Aid.

Swimming

Class 5 continues to swim this $\frac{1}{2}$ term on a Wednesday afternoon. Thanks for your support ensuring that the children have their appropriate kits in school. So far, 100%.



Parents Evening

30th & 31st March

All staff will try to fit you in as close to your requested time as possible. Please be aware though, that this isn't always feasible.

Easter Journey

On Monday 30th March, Y5 have been invited to take part in a Holy Week presentation in Frodsham. Letters will follow.

Comic Relief

The children are invited to donate £1 and wear red for Comic Relief. Please support this worthy cause.

FUN RUN!

On Wednesday we are all slipping on our trainers and running for fun! Phoenix Park watch out.

Easter Bonanza

A date for your diaries - 27th March. Details to follow!

Don't forget that 'Read for My School' is still running. Keep on

Think for yourself, care for others.

Reception

Literacy	This half term our topic is all about pirates, we will be reading lots of pirate stories, creating our own treasure maps and writing about story characters. We will also begin to look at writing in sentences and the key features of a sentence we need to include in our work.
Maths	This half term we will look at measures and children will have the opportunity to explore measuring the capacity of different containers before comparing them. We will also begin to look at money, using different coins to pay for items from our class shop and find the correct amount of change.
Knowledge and understanding of the world	Our topic this half term is all about our local area, children will share their ideas on what they would find in the local area and make observations on the natural surrounding environment. We will then compare our local area to other places and begin to talk about the similarities and differences between them.
RE	This term we will be thinking about Easter, children will begin to understand why we celebrate Easter and become familiar with the Easter story.
PE	We are still working on games in P.E. this half term and children will have lots of opportunities to continue to develop their throwing and catching skills. They will also become more familiar with working as part of team and understand the importance of following the rules of a game and working collaboratively.
PSHCE	Our topic in PSHE this half term is all about celebrating children's achievements, they will be asked to think about what they feel they have accomplished or achieved throughout the school year so far.
Expressive arts	There will be lots of creative opportunities this half term as children will be engaging in a range of activities, making pirate masks, making pirate jewelry and creating their own movable pirates. They will also have the opportunity to work together to help create our pirate role play area.

Class Two's Topics

English	<p>In English this half term we will be listening to and discussing stories from other cultures. The children will discuss the features of these tales and will begin to retell the story using their sequencing maps and writing targets.</p> <p>We will also be looking at writing recounts and will link these to our Forest Schools Sessions.</p> <p>In handwriting we will continue to look at writing easy words focusing on how and which letters join together.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term we will be practising our 2, 5 and 10 times table, learning what a multiple is. We will also be revisiting partitioning numbers, looking at the value of numbers with two digits, three digits and even four digits! The children will continue to develop their addition and subtraction skills and will begin to look at larger numbers. This half term we will also learn about division and we will start to use a mix of both practical and written methods to help us solve problems.</p>
Topic	<p>Who is the King of the Jungle?</p> <p>This half term we are focusing on science, art and geography.</p> <p>We will look at the human body and animal bodies and compare different parts. What body parts do we have that are the same and what parts are different? We will be exploring a range of animals, especially jungle animals and deciding who is the King of the Jungle, as well as having a look at where different animals come from in the world. We will transform our role-play area into a jungle safari complete with a safari jeep. We will be busy creating different wild masterpieces using collage, lots of cutting and sticking!</p>
Computing	<p>In computing we will continue to use a range of technology to record and develop our work throughout the curriculum. We will also be using art packages to create artistic representations and images.</p>
Music	<p>This half term the title of our music topic is 'Rhythm in the way we walk and Banana Rap'. During this unit the children will listen to and appraise the following types of music: Reggae, Rock, Hip Hop and Pop. We will listen to various artists and learn to sing the song 'Rhythm in the way we walk'.</p>
RE	<p>Parables</p> <p>The children will continue with the unit from last half term and will be revisiting the story of The Prodigal Son. The children will focus on discussing and retelling the story and will examine the importance of the stories told by Jesus.</p>
PE	<p>Games - Striking and Fielding</p> <p>In our games unit this term the children will focus on team games. They will learn basic skills to play these games and will show an understanding of the rules needed to play these fairly. The children will be taught how to hit a ball using a range of equipment. They will also be taught fielding tactics.</p>
PSHCE	<p>In PSHCE the children will think about relationships. They will focus on how to have positive relationships with others but will also remember the school motto 'think for yourself and care for others'</p>

Class Three's Topics

Literacy	This half term we will be covering a wide range of writing genres as we delve into our half term book focus of 'Harry and Jaggedy Daggers'. Although our Literacy lessons will focus on the narrative aspects, this will link with our topic work, which will include lots of non-fiction writing. We will be having a big push on our reading skills including looking at why the writer has chosen specific words or sentences.
Numeracy	We will be working on solving problems this half term, discovering the best ways to apply our maths skills. It is essential that we have quick recall of times tables to enable us to do this successfully, so we will be working hard on our Maths Monsters. We will also be covering other aspects of maths including symmetry and shape.
Topic	Our topic this half term is water! Using our fiction book as a basis for our half terms work, we will be learning about local rivers and lakes as well as seas and oceans of the world. We will also be investigating some famous shipwrecks. This will include lots of independent research and presentation skills.
ICT	We will continue to develop our presentation skills, using lots of different Office programs to share our information. We will also be learning how to create our own games using the iPads.
RE	Continuing our focus on Judaism as our religious focus, we will be investigating the Torah and its importance to some people.
PE	Striking and Fielding. We will adapt a lot of the skills that we developed last half term into a new set of games. Hopefully our improvements in aim, strength and target will help us succeed in a wide range of team games.
PSHCE	Relationships! This theme focuses specifically on feelings. It explores feelings within the context of our important relationships including family and friends. The theme aims to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in three key social and emotional aspects of learning: self-awareness, managing feelings and empathy.
Music	This half term we will continue to develop our music skills by using the Glockenspiels and learning how to read basic music and notation. We will need to think carefully about the rhythm and beat, knowing which key to strike when.

Class Four's Topics

English	In English this half term we will be studying performance poetry. The children will listen to a range of performance poems and explore the features that poets use, they include: The Torch, The Deal and Don't Tell Your Mother by Michael Rosen, Word of a Lie by Jackie Kay, Cool Cat by Mike Jubb, Picnic Time on the M25 by Paul Cookson, The Dragon who Ate our School by Nick Toczec and Write-A-Rap Rap by Tony Mitton. Children will identify and use conjunctions that indicate time and cause, investigate negative prefixes, informal language and rhymes. Children will write extra lines to one of poems and then a rap.
Maths	In Maths this half term we will be focusing on partitioning, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and shape. The children will be looking at adding and subtracting numbers with up to four digits using the efficient written methods. To identify and estimate numbers using different representations. They will learn to write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division. During shape the children will be asked to identify horizontal, vertical, perpendicular and parallel lines and recognise lines of symmetry in 2D shapes and recognise start to recognise angles. The children will also learn how to recognise, find and write fractions of a discrete set of objects: unit fractions and non-unit fractions with small denominators. Throughout all of these topics the children will be encouraged to solve problems related to these.
Topic	This half term we are focusing on History. The children will be taught about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Children will learn how to be an archaeologist and work towards presenting what they have learned at a class archaeology conference for another class. They learn about the Stone Age to Iron Age timeline, the different sources of evidence used by archaeologists, the vocabulary used by archaeologists and how to carry out a dig. During this topic we will also be covering art. The children will learn how to use a variety of different mediums such as oil pastels and chalk to create their own cave paintings as well as using clay to create prehistoric pots and jewellery.
Science	This half term Year 3 will continue to compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will learn how to describe, in simple terms, how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rocks. During this topic they will also start to recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.
Computing	This half term the children will learn how to create, evaluate and present information on the Stone Age using Microsoft PowerPoint. They will know where to find and open Microsoft PowerPoint, create new slide, import images and add audio files. They will learn how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.
Music	This year Class 4 are learning how to play the flute. Over this half term they will learn how to play a simple tune, discover the note 'G', follow a beat and start to independently read music. They will start to understand the terminology tempo, dynamics and pitch in relation to music.
RE	During this unit the children will be exploring the key practices and beliefs in Islam. The children will learn that Allah is the Islamic name for God and that Muslims believe there is one God and that Muhammad is his messenger. They will also learn that the Qur'an is the sacred text for Muslims, and that they believe it is the word of Allah as revealed to Muhammad via the angel Gabriel.
PE	This half term the children will play competitive games, such as tennis, badminton and volley ball. They will start to apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending as well as hand-eye coordination.
French	This half term the children will explore the patterns and sounds of the language through rhymes and songs. They will start to speak in sentences using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structure. They will broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material. During this term they will also learn how to describe people, places and things orally.
PSHCE	This half term the children will be thinking about friendship. We will focus on developing children's knowledge, understanding and skills in three key social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, managing feelings (with a focus on anger) and social skills.

Class Five's Topics

English	Flashbacks and film narratives In English this half term we will be using 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' as a starting point. In particular, our focus will be how an author uses flashbacks to build tension and fill in details, which are crucial to the plot. This will be supported with reference to the film and how the story is adapted for the big screen! We will examine specific stylistic devices - are you ready for your close up?
Maths	In Maths this half term we will continue to explore and extend place value. We are still investigating Roman numerals. Addition and subtraction stretches the children up to four digits and will complement investigating decimals - tenths and hundredths. Finally, we'll continue to study mass and geometry - reflections and translation.
Topic	Stone Age We continue to step back in time to the dawn of the Stone Age. We will be exploring how archaeologists find out about the past, with the use of primary and secondary evidence. Science - Forces / Moon and Space We will complete our work examining forces and then extend our learning to include the moon and space.
Computing	The children will use 'Publisher' to create visitors leaflets for a Stone Age archaeological site. We will revisit programming and algorithms to see whether the children are now able to design their own sequences and programmes.
Music	We are now $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the school year. It's really important to be practising at home regularly and reading the simple music sheets. Practise makes perfect!
RE	Key Practices and beliefs in Islam So far we've examined the Christianity. We will continue to do so during the season of Lent. In addition, the children will have the opportunity to learn about the key beliefs and practices of Islam, discovering that other religions have more similarities than differences.
PE	Net and wall games Lots of ball skills and tactical play. Children will be developing their own individual skills as well as learning to operate as part of a team. Swimming Our sessions continue every Wednesday afternoon up until Easter. The children are all making excellent progress.
PSHCE	Relationships We will be discussing a wide range of relationships. Who we have relationships with, how do we establish relationships, how we value different people and their unique qualities. We will look at the importance of not pre-judging people by their appearance.

Class Six's Topics

Literacy	This half term the children will be working on their written skills for recounts and newspaper report writing linked to the topic of 'keen to be green'. The children will consider the impact of the recycling on the planet and proceed to create a newspaper report about how things need to be changed. We will read a range of newspaper articles in order to highlight the features, focusing on the children's inference skills (reading between the lines) The children have all been invited to attend SPaG breakfast revision session on a Wednesday morning from 8:15am, here the children will be able to work on areas that they are finding trickier in small adult led groups and they will also be provided with a snack! - We hope to see lots of you there.
Maths	This half term we will be focusing on the use of calculating and understanding number. This is an area where we will highly focus on word problems and problem solving activities too, meaning that the children will need to use their persistence throughout to ensure that they are completing questions using correct methods. The children will continue to work on their mental calculations and regularly will be tested on their Maths Monsters, which we are hoping the children will excel in even further before the end of Year 6! The children will all continue to be working specifically on their areas of need within targeted small group work and will regularly be set additional tasks - please support your children to do these too!
Topic	<p>Keen to be Green</p> <p>Have you ever wondered how you could help to save the planet? This topic will give the children the opportunity to research and investigate the effect of waste on the planet. The children will be looking at greenhouse gases, ozone layers, melting polar ice caps whilst also considering the ways in which they can help. The children will be learning about the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We will be creating our own projects using recycled materials, we will be reusing materials to create art work in the outdoor areas and we will also be thinking and creating ways within school to ensure all classes are recycling effectively.</p> <p>During this topic the children will be planting a range of foods and vegetables to link to our living things section of science, the children will be made aware if and when they will need warm clothing in school!</p>
Computing	<p>Digital Media</p> <p>This half term the children will be perfecting their skills using apple macs and other digital media to create their own music and songs linked to the topic of 'Keen to be green'. The children will be creating a high quality video, which will focus on the music, and then the video for the song they are creating. The children will then share these videos during a presentation in assembly - Keep your eyes peeled for these appearing on the website or even on twitter!</p>
RE	<p>The importance of the Qu'ran</p> <p>During this half term the children will learn the significance of the Qur'an for Muslims today and to select and put together information to form a plan for a television programme on the Qur'an.</p>
PE	<p>Volleyball</p> <p>This half term we will be discovering the sport of volleyball in Year 6, we will be looking at the different techniques including the volley and the dig and how these are used in a game situation of volleyball. The children will be participating in small group activities and games where they will be given the opportunity to use the skills they have learnt. There will also so be opportunity for the children to participate in many other competitive sports outside of school including swimming gala, gymnastics competition and stacking cups competition.</p>
PSHCE	<p>Relationships</p> <p>This topic focuses on the different and changing relationships of friends and family, the children will participate in Philosophy for children (P4C) sessions where they will discuss many different enquiries. The children will also consider the importance of forgiveness of others and themselves, what could they do / say to show forgiveness?</p>
Music	<p>Fresh Prince of Bel Air</p> <p>As previously this year, the children will be focusing on one song this half term under the genre of hip hop and rap. The children will be initially learning the song lyrics and will then continue to learn the song whilst focusing on the use of an instrument. During this half term the children will also be participating in workshops provided for a big band performance, where the children will be given the opportunity to play a variety of different musical instruments.</p>