

Beech Tree Class Curriculum Autumn 2017

We have a very busy term ahead of us in Beech Tree class working on our new whole school topic of 'Our World', we are really looking forward to it!



Maths

Our maths this term will be focused on the four main mathematical operations, exploring the different methods so that each child can decide which method is most efficient for them. We will also revisit place value, rounding, ordering numbers, negative numbers and fractions. Wherever possible we work practically in maths, applying real life situations to the work, using investigational skills which the children always seem to thoroughly enjoy. An example of this will be when we pose the question 'How many chick peas can you fit in the classroom?' The children will work collaboratively to decide what they need to do to help them complete the investigation, the emphasis will not necessarily be on arriving at the right answer but on their methods and approach to the question. We will also be walking around the village to carry out a 'litter pick' which will not only help our local environment but will be a great basis for some exciting maths. We will sort the rubbish into categories and then use a vast array of mathematical skills including estimating, rounding, weighing, averages, fractions and percentages. We will then use data handling to record the information and finally use the Excel program to show the results in other formats. Such learning from a few bags of rubbish!

Literacy

In our Literacy the Autumn term is all about improving our writing skills. To do this we will be exploring our school topic through instructional and explanation texts, for example texts on how to operate an iPhone or use Twitter. Looking at the ways we can adapt instructions for a different audience will help us feel confident with using accurate punctuation and achieving clarity of expression. After half-term we will develop our critical reading skills using Philip Pullman's novel Northern Lights and his short story, Clockwork. The genres of fantasy and science-fiction have always been a fantastic means of exploring the world in which we live and these texts are no different. Both are set in alternative realities which will allow us to springboard to our own creative pieces. Through these we will explore narrative techniques as well as effective word choices, carefully crafted sentence construction and grammatical accuracy.

Science

This term in Beech Tree Class, we will be establishing good practice in scientific discovery, learning how to plan and carry out investigations fairly and thoroughly, before recording and reporting them clearly and concisely. They will also be exploring the properties of materials, including investigating solubility, magnetism, hardness and changes of state. They will compare materials through their properties, how their state can be changed and whether those changes are reversible. They will discover how materials can be separated through sieving, evaporation and filtering.

Topic

Our topic work starts with the overriding title of 'Our World'. Within this we will consider people of the past, looking at the Maya, where they lived, their civilization, religion and existence today. We will look at how archaeologists use evidence to find out about the past and previous civilisations. The children will think about how our society is now and who makes our decisions before comparing this with how Mayan society was structured. They will find out about different groups of Mayan people from kings and nobles to slaves and farmers. The children will generate questions surrounding the everyday lives of Mayans and will use a variety of information sources to find answers to their questions. They will present these findings in a format of their own choice for homework. We will link this work on Maya to our art lessons,

maths with the Maya calendar, RE with the creation story and PSHE with the organisation of society.

P.E.

This term in Beech Tree class the children will be taking part in tennis, netball, volleyball and rugby. The children will also be trying out a new game – to all of us! This is an old Mayan Tribal game which coincides with their topic work this term of The Mayan Civilisation. This should prove to be very interesting, as it looks to be incredibly difficult!

German

In German this term we shall be learning proper nouns, including days of the week, colours, numbers and months of the year. The children will also be learning how to use basic greetings, such as introducing themselves, and responding to others. They have already begun to answer the daily register and order lunches and snacks in the language. We hope to have a German feast, giving the children a chance to use their German in a restaurant or café.

Art

In our art this year we will continue to look at the work of well known artists both those from our past and those producing art today. We will consider their techniques and the influence they have over how we see 'Our World' today. The children will use their sketch books to record their ideas for future projects and practice techniques. Local artist Rosemary Humphries will work alongside the children teaching them drawing and painting skills, especially manufacturing their own pigments from natural sources. They will also learn to draw complicated shapes, such as Mayan Temples, by breaking the task down in easier stages.

Outdoor Education

Making the most of Autumn we shall be taking the opportunity to study fruits, nuts and seeds, starting with a discussion on how these are formed, and how they are dispersed so that they have the best chance to germinate. The children will then collect a variety of each whilst walking around the village and, having chosen a particular specimen will discuss how the particular fruit, nut or seed is dispersed. Liaison with the Little Ouse Headwaters Project continues. We have made contact with the newly employed manager, Rob Martyr, who is going to come into school to speak with the children in Beech Tree class about the progress on Blo Norton and Thelnetham Fens, Broomscott Common and Scarfe's Meadow in Garboldisham. He is keen for the children to become involved with improving the pond dipping facilities at Broomscott Common and to re-invigorate the willow arbour in school, which is in need of some TLC.

Community Cohesion

As always, we are very keen for the children to be a central focus in the community with our community cohesion curriculum. As in previous years there will be a Macmillan Cancer Care Tea Party. Produce from the Harvest Festival will be distributed at the Riverside Centre in Thetford when two of our year six children will represent the school. Everybody is warmly welcome to join the School in their celebration assemblies in Church which this term will be Harvest, Bible Presentation, Christingle and the Nativity Service.

This term we will be welcoming a visitor from the Dementia Support Charity to Beech Tree Class. We are aware that dementia is becoming much more widespread in society and this charity will explain to the children what the illness actually is and how it not only impacts on the sufferer, but also on the family and close friends. Staff are already knitting woolen muffs, which the children will decorate with buttons, sequins, zips etc. to provide a stimulating activity for dementia sufferers.

We hope you agree that the children will be experiencing a wide and varied curriculum throughout this term. If you have any queries, or comments, please come and discuss it with a member of Staff in Beech Tree Class.