

Beech Tree Class Curriculum Statement-Spring 2018



We are really looking forward to our whole school topic this term which is going to be "Power" in all its forms. The children have already brainstormed what the word 'POWER" means to them and have come up with some brilliant ideas about what they would like to learn about including The Struggle for Power by the Suffragettes, the different levels of power that Governments have and also the power that our Monarchy has. They are very excited to be learning about World War II and the effects it has had on lives today.

As Mathematicians we will be consolidating our mental maths skills by knowing all our times tables and division facts. We will be ensuring that our multiplication and division abilities are the best they can possibly be by revising our formal written methods. Approaching Sats we will ensure we are able to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, interpret statistics, identify multiples and prime numbers, reason about multi step word problems and know fraction/decimal/percentage equivalents. . We will also investigate how the World War II code breakers such as Alan Turing and his Enigma code-breaking machine were so important to the triumph of the Allies and we will be creating our own codes to communicate 'top secret' information.

As Language Specialists we will kick-start the new year with a very imaginative piece of creative writing. Specifically this will be to improve upon the skills learnt last term and refine our writing style. Following this, both year 5 and 6 will be studying the text "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" by John Boyne to link to their studies of World War II. Year 6 will be using the text to examine a range of writing forms and to develop their reading skills as we explore this complex, multi-layered story. Year 5 will focus on delving into the deeper layers in literary texts and will begin to appreciate the power that words carry in creating meaning for the reader.

As Scientists we will be visiting 'Force Land' to explore a range of forces and mechanisms, through testing and investigation to advise the owners of a new theme park on incorporating them into rides. Year six will also be revising previous learning to prepare them for possible SATS testing and for High School.

As Geographers we will be examining the location and contribution of the key countries in World War II finding out which countries were the Axis and which countries were the Allies? We will also be looking at the impact of the war outside of Europe (in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia) and examining where the key battles were won and lost

As Historians we will identify the reasons and the power struggles which caused the outbreak of World War II and investigate the effect it had on everyday life such as food rationing, how the role of women changed during the war, the Blitz and evacuation. For the latter, we will use our very own school log books as a primary resource to show details of children evacuated from London to Garboldisham.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will using and improving our core and muscle strengths through dance and Pilates. We will also be aiming to swim competently and confidently.

As Musicians we will listen and reflect on the great war movie themes of our time including the Dam Busters March by Eric Coates. In recorder lessons with Mr V we will learn some World War II songs by Vera Lynn, Gracie Fields and Flanagan and Allen.

As Environmentalists in our Outdoor Education, we will be learning all about the power of peat when we will work with volunteers from the LOHP and actually cut peat ourselves on our local Blo Norton Fen. Once dried, which may well be in late spring, with the assistance of Mr Langston, we will compare the heat generated by a peat fire and a wood fire. We will also be working closely with the LOHP to plant over 400 saplings which the school has sourced, on Scarfe Meadows. In addition to this, a work party from the LOHP will be coming in to help the children re-shape and maintain the willow arbour on the school field.

As Artists we will be creating our own works in the style of the world war artists such as Paul Nash, Henry Moore, Stanley Spencer and Chris Nevinson. We will consider colour mixing, silhouettes and sketching skills to create works of art using power as our inspiration.

As Design Technologists we will be making our own gas masks and also looking at power and how cam shafts work. Using these new skills we will create our own moving toys. Mr Feakes will be coming in to speak with the class to tell them how linear movement is changed into circular movement, and bringing some of his models to illustrate this in practice.

As members of our community we will be organising a 'litter pick' around our village using the new litter pickers donated by BDC after our last session. Mr Steve Hickman from Breckland District Council will be coming into school to take a special assembly based on 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' as this is something that we are very interested in. In addition to this, we have a trip planned to the SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Centre in Great Blakenham near Ipswich to see for ourselves what happens to our rubbish and how power in the form of electricity can be made.

As Theologians we will be considering some powerful, famous religious leaders who dedicated their lives to helping others including Ghandi, Martin Luther King and Mother Theresa. We will also be learning about the Holy Trinity and will welcome Father Derrick into school to teach us about it first hand.

As computer programmers we will be experimenting with Microsoft Publisher to create our own World War II propaganda posters. We will also be researching how the Enigma code breaking machine was created.

As Philosophers we will be exploring the quote by John F Kennedy:

'Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind'.